

GLOBAL HARVEST REPORT

HIGH TIMES

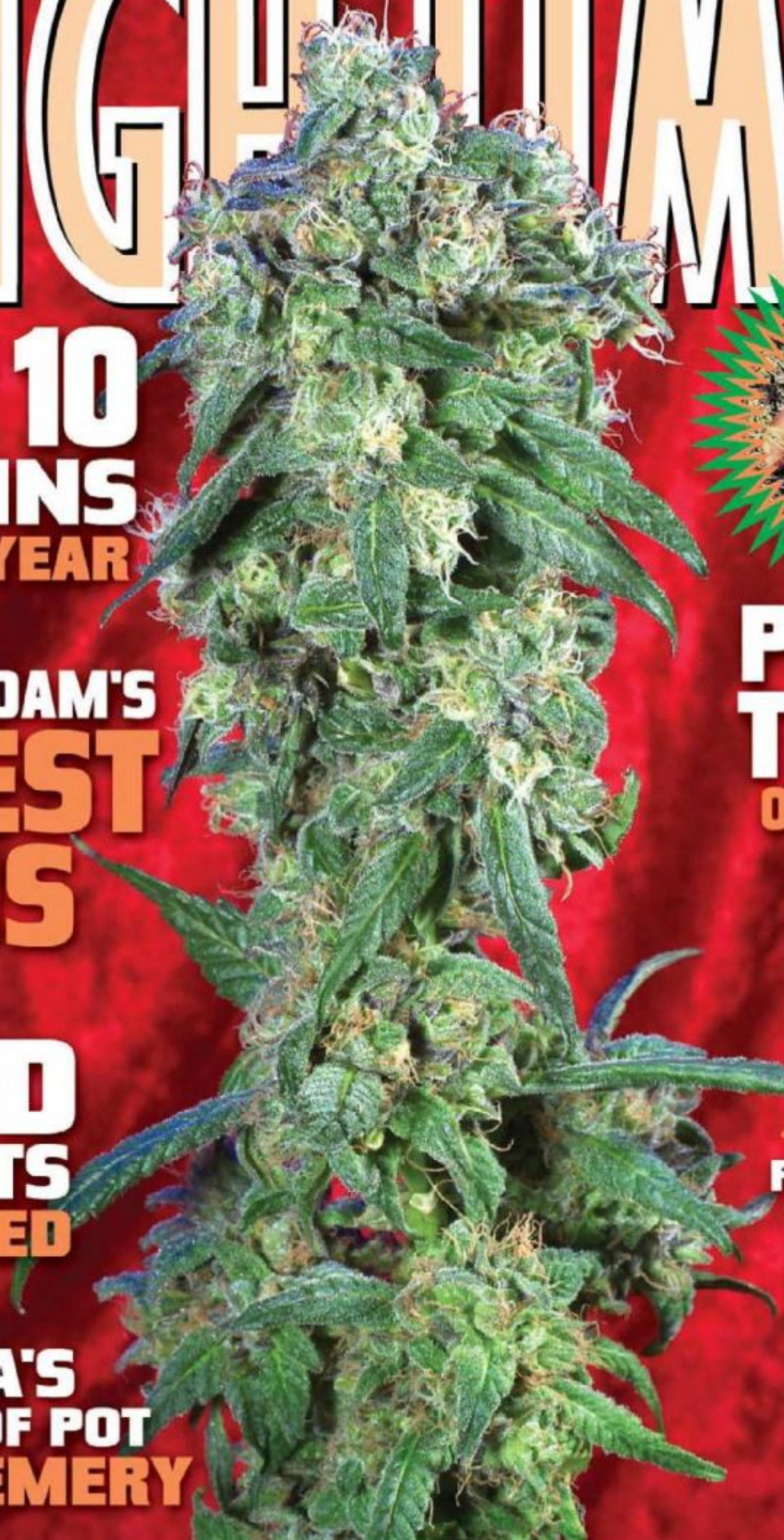
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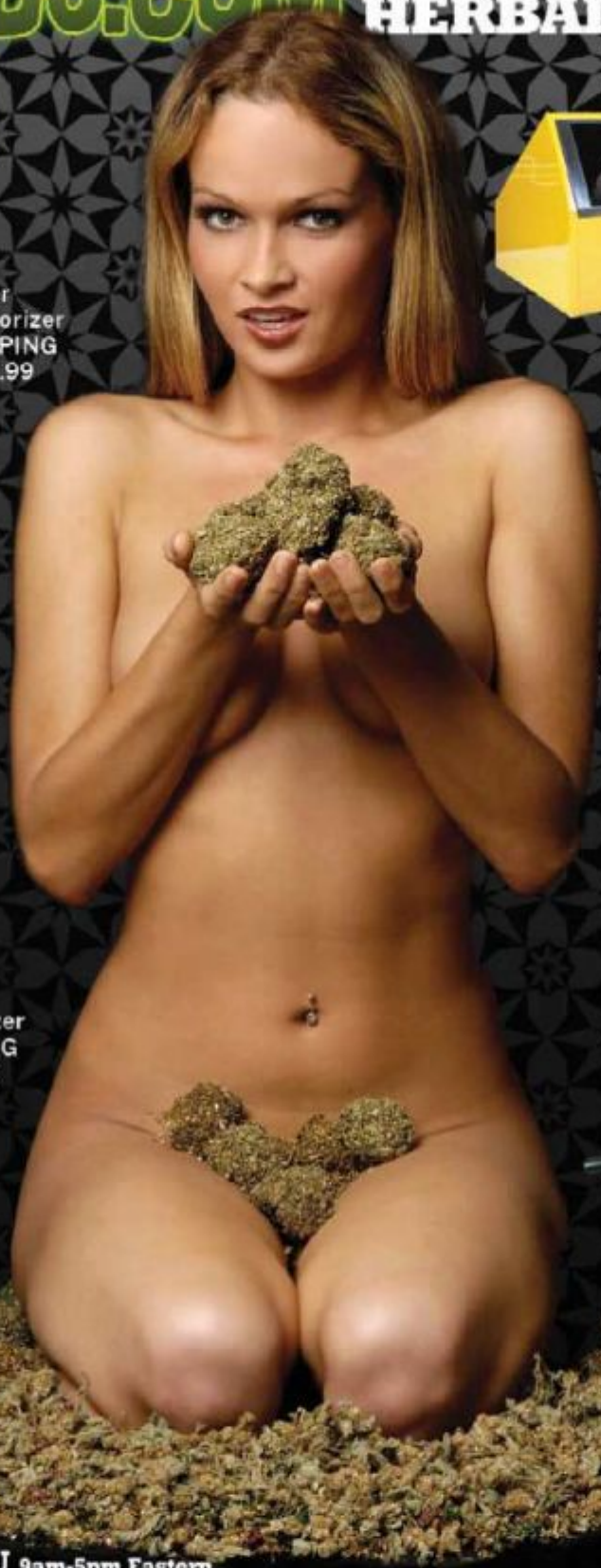
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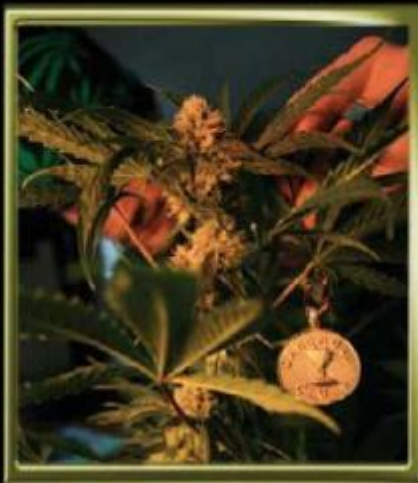
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A look behind the curtain reveals a secret garden of earthy delights.



EVER GROWING

Welcome to the December 2008 issue of HIGH TIMES. As we pause to reflect on the past 12 months, it's hard not to feel really buzzed about the prospects for pot culture in the year to come.

More and more states are passing laws allowing the medicinal use of marijuana, and majorities of voters clearly favor decriminalizing the recreational use of cannabis by adults. The will of the people continues to defeat the propaganda of the drug warriors: The voices of doctors, nurses and patients are finally being heard, and the groundswell of support for marijuana-law reform has reached a fever pitch. It seems we are nearing the tipping point.

With this in mind, we put our heads together and came up with an issue to truly celebrate the plant that we all love and hold so dear.

Our correspondents searched far and wide to bring you the Global Harvest Report, a survey of this year's bud bounty from places as varied as Nepal and Israel, Spain and Malawi. Our beloved cannabis plant continues to thrive all over the planet in myriad climates, despite the Sisyphean efforts of misguided eradicators.

My Top 10 Strains of 2008 marks the fourth year in a row I've had the distinct honor of compiling our annual list of those pot varieties that rose above the rest to shine through as perfect specimens of modern bud breeding.

We also celebrate the late, great reggae legend Peter Tosh, with noted reggae historian Roger Steffens revealing the "Stepping Razor's" intimate reflections on ganja. No fierier activist for cannabis users' rights ever existed: The man born Winston Hubert McIntosh paid the ultimate price for our cause, and we take special pride in his induction into the Counterculture Hall of Fame at this year's Cannabis Cup.

Don't miss Nico Escondido's final installment of his three-part Amsterdam grow series, detailing the real story behind Barney's Farm, the winners of multiple Cannabis Cups, for the strains their seeds have produced. Also, Arjan and Franco from Green House Seeds reveal their latest innovation in the seed industry—one that's sure to revolutionize the bud-breeding biz.

All in all, it's a bud-packed, THC-soaked issue that will be certain to please any true pot aficionado and cannabis connoisseur. Join us as we celebrate the year that was and look forward to the ones still to come.

Danny Danko

Danny Danko
Senior Cultivation Editor

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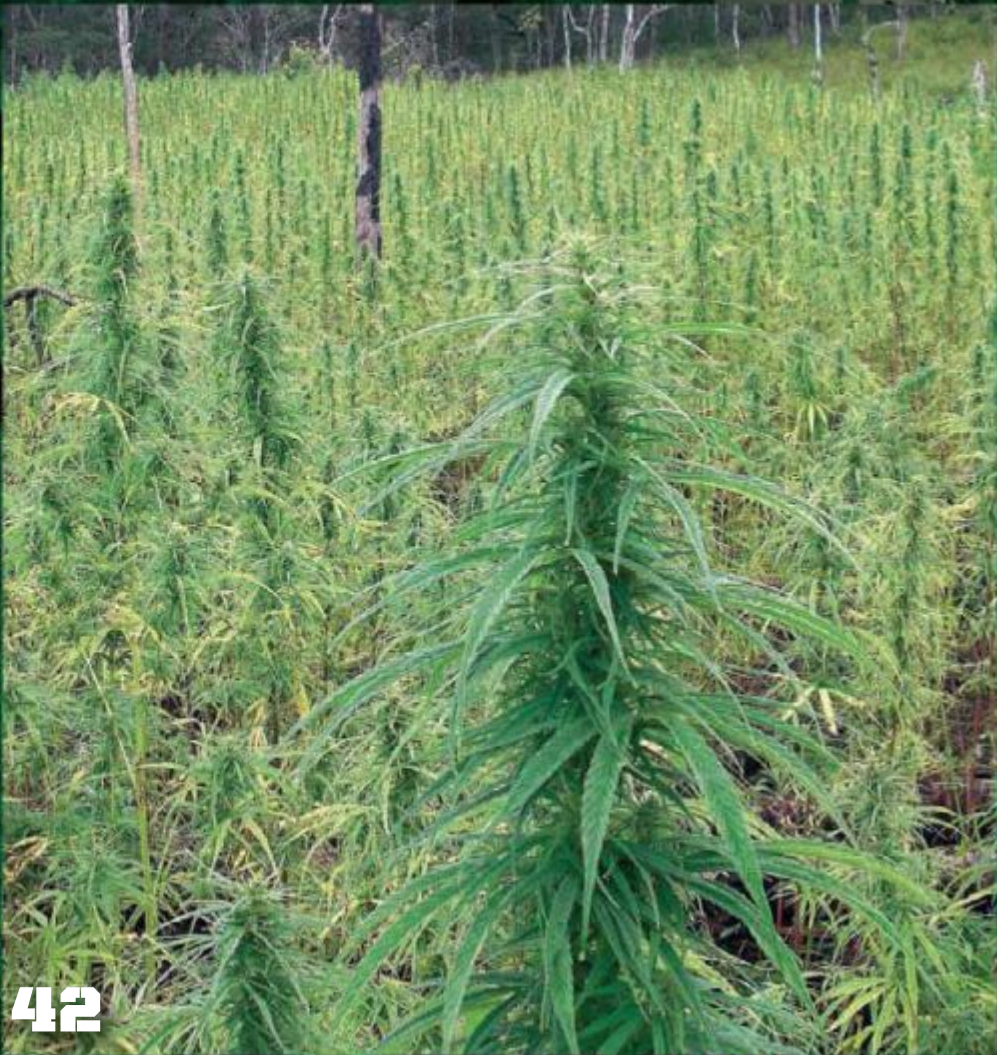
HIGH TIMES



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Reggae's greatest historian details Peter Tosh's long-time love affair with ganja, a plant so important Tosh said it was "against his religion not to smoke herb."

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Cannabis correspondents from around the world weigh in with their rundowns of this year's pot harvests, focusing on regional climates and the strains being grown around the planet.

54 TOP TEN STRAINS OF 2008

by Danny Danko

HIGH TIMES' list of the best pot varieties of the past year featuring past and future Cannabis Cup winners and strains that stand up to stringent testing with potency, flavor and incredible colors and smells.

64 ROAD TO THE CUP, PARTE TRES, EL FIN!

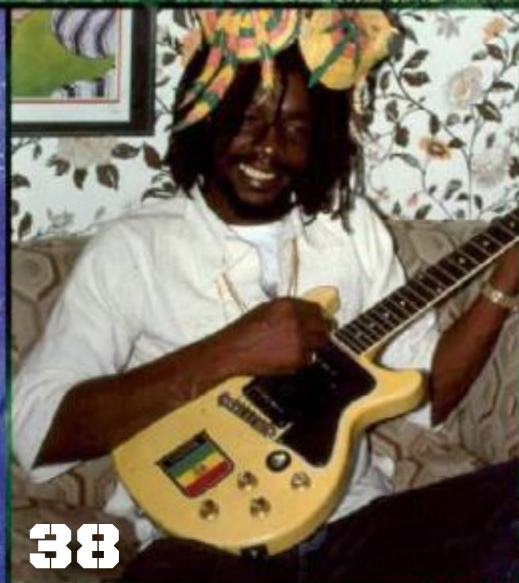
This may be the end of the road, amigos – the final edition of our Amsterdam grow series – but it ends with our good friends at Barney's Farm and perhaps some of the best nugs yet! In a series that began with a seed and ends with the Cannabis Cup, this finale will have you ready to set sail across the ocean and visit the magical Wonderland of Cannabis—after all, you owe it to yourself and the buds!

72 THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW: MARC EMERY by Dan Skye

He's a high-powered activist, the man who distributed millions of marijuana seeds across North America. He's Marc Emery, Canada's "Prince of Pot." Unfortunately, the legendary seed merchant now faces a long prison sentence.



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EDITED BY DAN SKYE
California harvest; Pot poll cats; Season of Lights; Seattle Hempfest; Teens on pot; New Drugs; Celebration Pipes; The Book on Dank; Kush Couture; Showbuzz; Canada's emerging hemp industry; South Dakota travesty; DEA's nonexistent victory; Dr. Paul O'Mahony; NORMLizer; Freedom Fighter; Dr. Mitch; The Second Generation Waiters; Bad Brains and Bedouin Soundclash; Reviews; Brain Damage Report; Almost Infamous; Miss HIGH TIMES and Vaporella.

81 growworld

EDITED BY DANNY DANKO
Pix of the Crop; THMQ; Chemdog D by Crazy Composer; Jorge's Rx and November Calendar by Jorge Cervantes.

110 next month

116 pot 40

COVER & CENTERFOLD: MG IMAGING
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MEAT PUPPETS

I just finished your interview with the Meat Puppets. I really liked the article and applaud your dedication to such seminal bands. However, you missed a golden (green) opportunity. Curt is a world class stoner and a pot smoking legend in his own right. I would put him up against B-Real or Snoop any day. They would both cough and choke long before Curt would put the fatty down. I think you should do another feature on Curt and you will find a wealth of dedication to the cause and ample material for your readers. Most people who know the Meat Puppets personally got to know Curt in a session and it remains a mainstay of the band's popularity with both older and younger crowds. After all, smoking weed wasn't invented by hippies and hip hop isn't the only avenue for its current popularity. Punks smoke too and Curt is our blue-green god!!

Janmy Highgrade

MORE POT, LESS ASS?

I agree with the letter in the October 2008 issue regarding Tera Patrick. I read HT because I like to learn about growing, read interesting stories and look at pictures of beautiful plants...not ass. I have no problem with porn at all, but I would like to see HT maintain its integrity and lose the naked photos. I've been enjoying your magazine articles and would like to continue learning more about strains and new technologies. Keep up the good work.

Jenn

SUB-PAR GIRLS?

I have been involved in your culture for a very long time. I have just recently started to purchase your magazine for the great photos, but I also love reading and love many of your articles. And I just bought your "Miss HIGH TIMES Best Of." The girls were sub-par and you had very few articles to read. But your article in September '08 issue about using the foggers was freakin great.

Gabriel

Bobby Black responds: "Well Gabriel, the Miss HIGH TIMES contest is about showcasing real stoner girls-next-door, not professional models. We think the finalists we chose were super cool and quite foxy... sorry if you don't agree."

POT APPRECIATION

I've been reading HT for years now and it's done nothing but help grow my appreciation for marijuana. HT made me realize that I too could grow the best weed in the world. I did my research before starting and ended up with some amazing



plants, some amazing smoke and some amazing memories. And that's only three seasons! I still have my whole life to grow.

Peter

VERTICAL SPACES

Big ups to everyone at HIGH TIMES. So I've been checking out all of the promoted grow closets, but I'm having a problem understanding the vertical grow space aspect. All of the closet dimensions promote a couple feet of plant growth space, but when I compensate for spacing

of the light above the plants the grow space diminishes drastically. If you take 3.5 feet of space and factor in the 18-24 inches of space for the 400-watt light that most of these closets use, you are left with 1.5 to 2 feet maximum vertical growth space. If this is the case, how can these closets be efficient and produce results?

Gumbo

When clones are put into immediate flowering (a technique known as "sea of green"), they grow fully developed flowers while maintaining a relatively small size. This is the best method for cultivation in small places.

CANNABIS CUP QUERY

I am wondering how can I enter a strain that I bred into the Cannabis Cup? Can you tell me something about that. And I don't know if you can tell me, but what is the fee I must pay to enter a strain for the Cup?

Rok

Thanks for your interest in the Cannabis Cup, but only legitimate seed companies that offer seeds for sale (and Amsterdam coffeeshops) can enter strains into the Cup. The fee to enter a strain is 1,000 euros.

SAVE THE SEEDS!

There is apparently going to be a marijuana revolt soon. But unlike nearly any other political issue, marijuana lobbyists/activists seem to be sadly looked down on and are largely unheard. I propose that HT magazine release a date that all smokers start collecting their seeds. At the end of the month all collectors throw seeds out along highway exit/entrance ramps and outside government buildings. Imagine our local officials seeing weed growing everywhere!! Viva la resistance!!! Smokers Unite!!

The Albino Rhino, Rev. Chris

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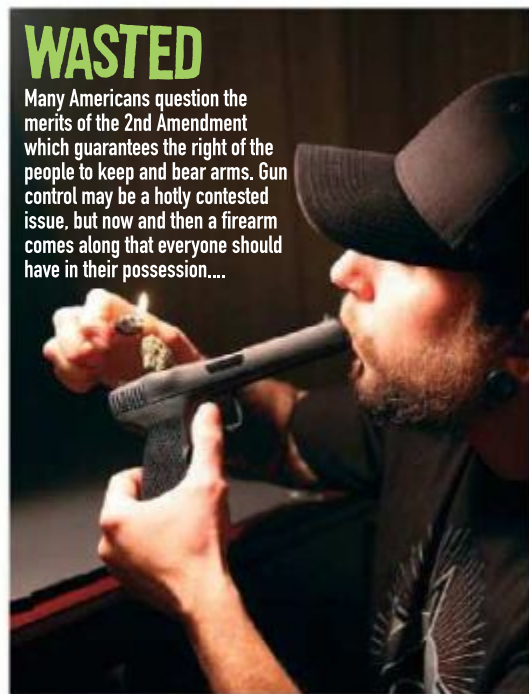
THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

Dr. Robert Melamede, an associate professor at the University of Colorado, recently testified in a Canadian court in the trial of four BC men accused of growing and selling pot at the Holy Smoke Culture Shop. Melamede ("Cannabis on his Mind," Oct. '08) stated that marijuana and cannabinoids are effective anti-aging agents, meaning they are effective in minimizing the onset and the severity of age-related illnesses like Alzheimers and cardiovascular disease, heart attacks and strokes. No argument here. The grower pictured here is 78 years old!



WASTED

Many Americans question the merits of the 2nd Amendment which guarantees the right of the people to keep and bear arms. Gun control may be a hotly contested issue, but now and then a firearm comes along that everyone should have in their possession....



POT POLL CATS

Recently, we asked 50 pot smokers four philosophical questions about marijuana. Each question was more difficult than the one before it and involved some serious soul-searching. Here are the results.

If you had to give up pot or beer, which would you choose?

Pretty easy: All but one responded that they'd give up beer for life.

How much money would you accept to give up pot, knowing that you could never, ever get high again? The respondents could check \$500,000, \$1 million, \$5 million, \$10 million or "Couldn't pay me enough." Most checked "Couldn't pay me enough," but there were multiple write-ins for \$25 million and \$100 million, plus one bid of "\$99 quadrillion and a country of my choosing." Another person simply responded: "I'll shoot myself in the head first."

Would you give up pot forever if, by your act, pot would become legal for everyone else? Only nine people voted "Yes," 34 voted "No," and seven voted "Maybe." In the comments section, two of the respondents apologized. One wrote: "Can't give it up. Sorry." The other said: "Freedom is for all. Sorry." Others weren't so diplomatic, like the stoner who wrote: "No, Fuck those guys!"

Same question, but nobody could ever know that your act had been responsible for legalization. This time, even fewer voted "Yes"—only four in all. Comments ranged from "I'm embarrassed at my transparency" to the more combative "Are you fucking kidding me? Then there's no point at all!"

Our research conclusions? It seems pot smokers really like smoking pot.

TEENS ON POT

According to a report from the State Health Department of Florida, students seem to be selecting their intoxicants wisely. A 2006 government survey revealed that, when students were asked if they had smoked pot or cigarettes in the past month, 16 percent admitted taking up while 15.5 percent admitted to puffing on a cigarette.

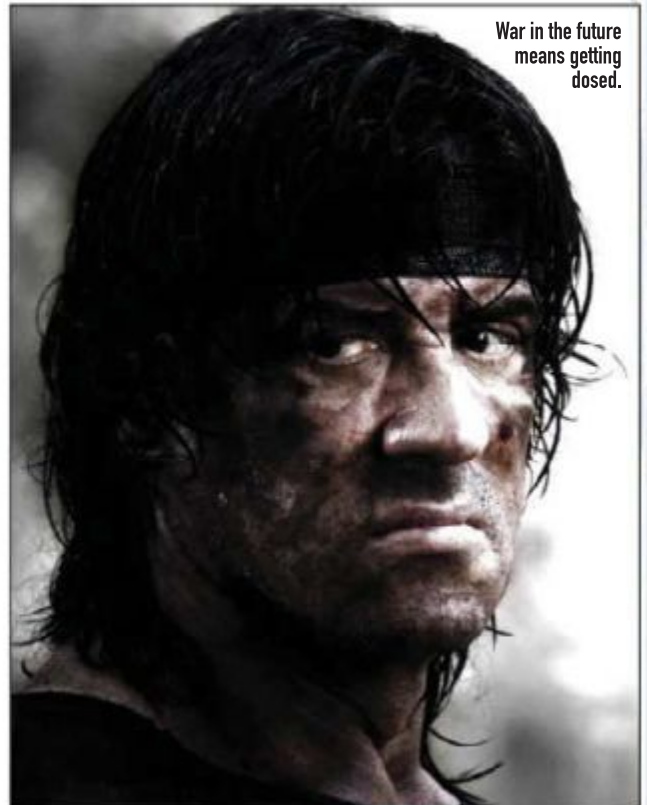
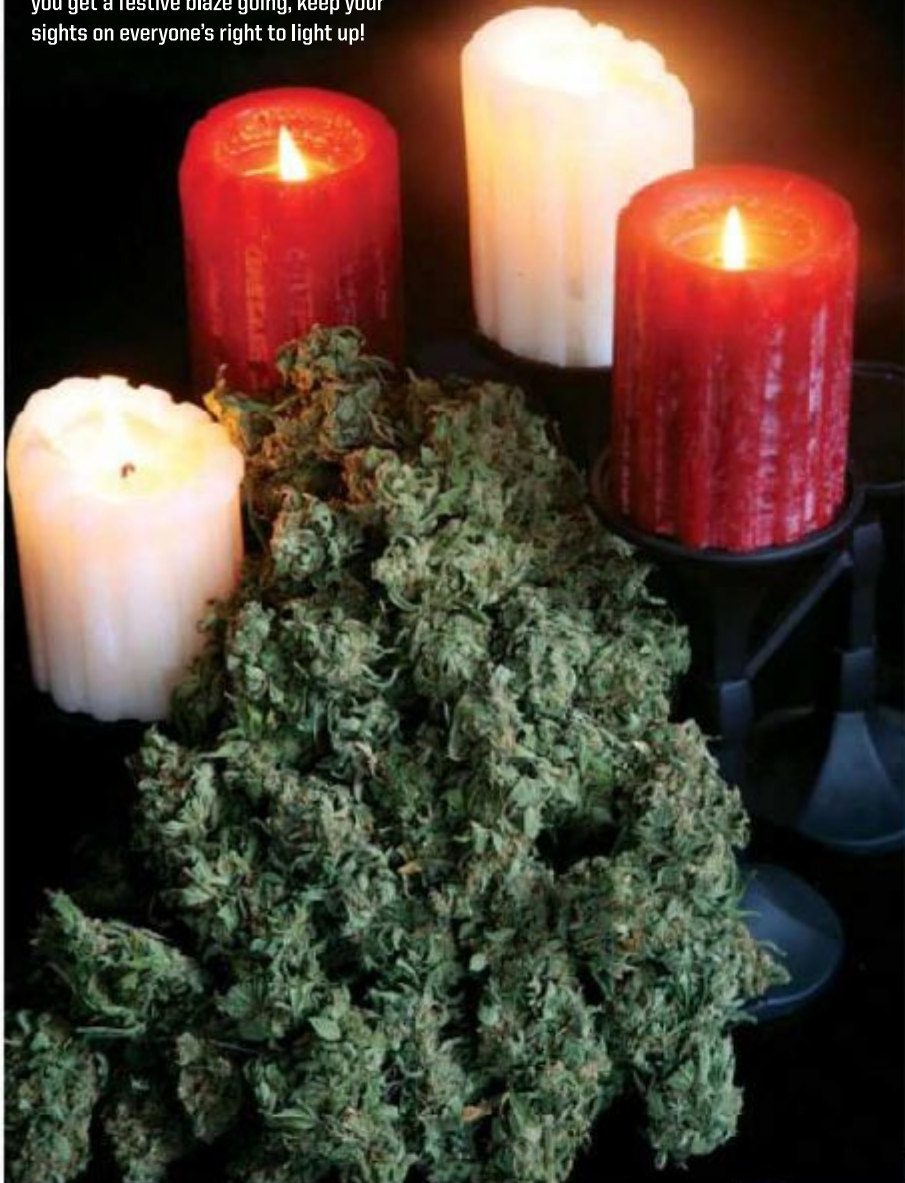
In Florida's Martin County, the difference was far greater: 24 percent had gotten high, as opposed to 20 percent who had smoked cigarettes. But the stat that confounded Florida health authorities most was the fact that Martin County youth were the most likely to engage in "vigorous physical activity"—which again proves pot use encourages our basic kinesthetic instincts.

In other news regarding pot smoking teens, Dr. Mitch Earleywine, associate professor of psychology at State University of New York at Albany, issued a study in June that states medical-marijuana laws have not increased teen marijuana use. In fact, teen use has consistently declined in states with med-pot laws, and generally more markedly than national averages. "Opponents of medical use of marijuana regularly argue that such laws send the wrong message to children. But there is just no sign of that effect in the data," Earleywine says.

Read the full report at mpp.org/teens.

hail, season of lights!

In the ganja world, the entire year is a season of lights: the warm, nourishing lights of the growroom, the friendly flick of a Bic that creates the firelight for joyful joint-sharing. And Northern Lights kicks ass with the best of 'em—like this pile of Canadian-grown NL, seeds courtesy of the Ontario Seed Bank. So enjoy this holiday season—and whenever and wherever you get a festive blaze going, keep your sights on everyone's right to light up!



War in the future means getting dosed.

RAMBO GETS SEDATED

The future of action-movie heroes looks bleak. No longer will they be wasting bad guys and blowing up shit. They'll be dosing the enemy instead.

According to a report issued by Britain's Defense Intelligence Service, the battlefield of the future will feature pharmacological warfare, with land mines releasing drugs to incapacitate soldiers on contact instead of shrapnel. Scary stuff—especially when you consider the ramifications for an entire population of “bad guys.”

The leading scientists who compiled the report also see electronic devices on the horizon that will identify suspects by their brain activity and even disrupt their ability to tell lies when questioned. The report says that brain imaging may also be used to help spot “afraid” or “anxious” people at security checkpoints.

Which means your poker face won't work anymore.

The Seattle crowd takes up on a communal, 3-foot bomber.



HOT, HIGH HEMPFEST

Record high temperatures and turnouts made this year's annual Seattle Hempfest an event to remember warmly. The volunteer-run “protestival” drew an audience of approximately 150,000 over the course of two days, making it the largest marijuana rally in American history.

But the attendance and heat index weren't the only things high. From costumed characters to political candidates, the hordes of pot enthusiasts toked up freely amidst music and activism while enjoying the sun and scenery in Myrtle Edwards Park along Elliott Bay, which provides terrific views of the Olympic Mountains.

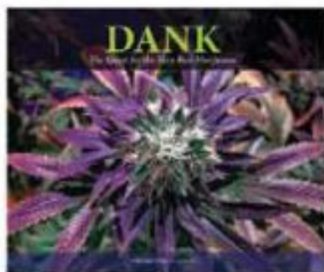
Highlights included a three-foot joint passed through the crowd, a 4:20 wedding ceremony on the main stage, performances by Kim Manning, Los Marijuanos and LDT Mo-Thugs (featuring members of Bone Thugs-n-Harmony), and speeches from NORML's Keith Stroup, Hempfest founder Vivian McPeak and the noted travel authority Rick Steves.

Miss HIGH TIMES 2007 Sarah Newton was there, as well as HT associate publisher Rick Cusick, who summed up the event thusly: “There is no better example of good people standing up and trying to change bad laws than the 2008 Seattle Hempfest!”



CELEBRATION PIPES

When a pipe company has been around for 34 years, you can bet they sell a smokin' product! Celebration Pipes produces Lavastoneware pieces, which are exquisitely handcrafted by DaPiper from a unique ceramic composition. The pipes are textured with lava rocks, fired to over 2,300°F, and then meticulously plated in either 22-karat gold, platinum, opal, black coral, purple haze or an exotic Hanalei blue finish. A Celebration Pipe makes an extra-special, one-of-a-kind gift: Each pipe is signed and numbered and comes in a gift box wrapped in a velvet bag with its own Certificate of Authenticity. Celebration Pipes gets an extra salute from us: They were one of the original HIGH TIMES advertisers back in 1974!



THE BOOK ON DANK

Ever wonder how new cannabis strains are created? Famous bud breeder Subcool reveals the secrets of his success in his first book on the subject, summing up over 20 years of experience growing and crossing pot varieties. *Dank: The Quest for the Very Best Marijuana* features loving descriptions of Subcool's favorite strains, accompanied by incredibly vivid photos—close-ups so detailed that the pages practically stick together. Over 35 varieties—including HIGH TIMES Top 10 Strain winners Jack the Ripper, Vortex and Jillybean—are detailed in striking, full-page photos featuring lush colors and trichomes galore.

Complete with flowering times, aromas, yield and strain-specific growing advice, *Dank* is perfect for the growroom or the coffee table. The breathtaking images and revealing text combine for a scintillating journey into the marijuana mindset of one of the world's best breeders, as he explains how and why he chooses certain plants to cross into blue-ribbon contest winners. The proud creator of sensi strains for the new millennium, Subcool is famous for producing buds with exceptional flavor, aroma and potency—plus the soothing traits that medicinal users rely upon to relieve pain and improve life.—**Danny Danko**
Available for \$29.95 at fsbookco.com or dankgearonline.com



KUSH COUTURE

If you're living the stoner life, your wardrobe should reflect your worldview—which is why you gotta start wearing Kush Couture. Not only does this clothing company market a wide variety of men's and women's T-shirts emblazoned with slick designs that trumpet our affinity for all things cannabis, but each shirt arrives vacuum-sealed—just like a pound of primo Kush.
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this month in

SHOWBUZZ

BUDZ ON DA BUS

Stop the presses! Snoop Dogg's tour bus was pulled over in Corsicana, TX, for having expired stickers. Guess what the police subsequently discovered? A strong odor of marijuana emanating from inside!



Bus busted.

Hard to believe—we've never heard of any such behavior on the part of anyone associated with Snoop. We're absolutely certain that everybody involved is completely innocent, including the two members of his entourage who were busted for allegedly being in possession of two ounces of pot.

The traffic stop caused the legendary rapper to nearly miss a concert in Dallas.

SWEDEN AIN'T SWEET

In August, reggae artist Sean Paul and 10 other musicians were swept up in a backstage raid at the Uppsala Reggae Festival in Stockholm on suspicion of marijuana possession. Apparently, Sean Paul's hotel room was searched in his absence as well.



Sean Paul gets mauled.

The festival organizer, Yared Tekeste, later stated: "I felt ashamed to be Swedish. I can personally vouch that no one smoked marijuana backstage. In Sean Paul's case, I am sure. I was by his side all the time before the concert."

Sean Paul has long been an outspoken proponent of the benefits of smoking cannabis.

OH, PUH-LEEZI!



Jesse the Blowhard

Recently, former pro wrestler Jesse "the Body" Ventura appeared on *Jimmy Kimmel Live* and boasted: "I'm gonna lead the revolution and become the benevolent dictator of Baja [California, in Mexico, where Ventura now lives]. And when I become the benevolent dictator, I'll legalize pot We will make it the Amsterdam of the West."

That's great, Jesse. Only we remember back 10 years ago, when you were elected governor of Minnesota on the strength of your stated support for sensible hemp and marijuana legislation. The thing is, during your entire six years in office, when you actually had the opportunity to effect change, you neglected to do anything to improve the legal status of cannabis.

So let's wait and see how you plan to demonstrate your support for pot this time—aside from engaging in late-night blather.

So let's wait and see how you plan to demonstrate your support for pot this time—aside from engaging in late-night blather.

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Y. Hoodies Color: Black. Sizes: M, L & XL. \$34.99



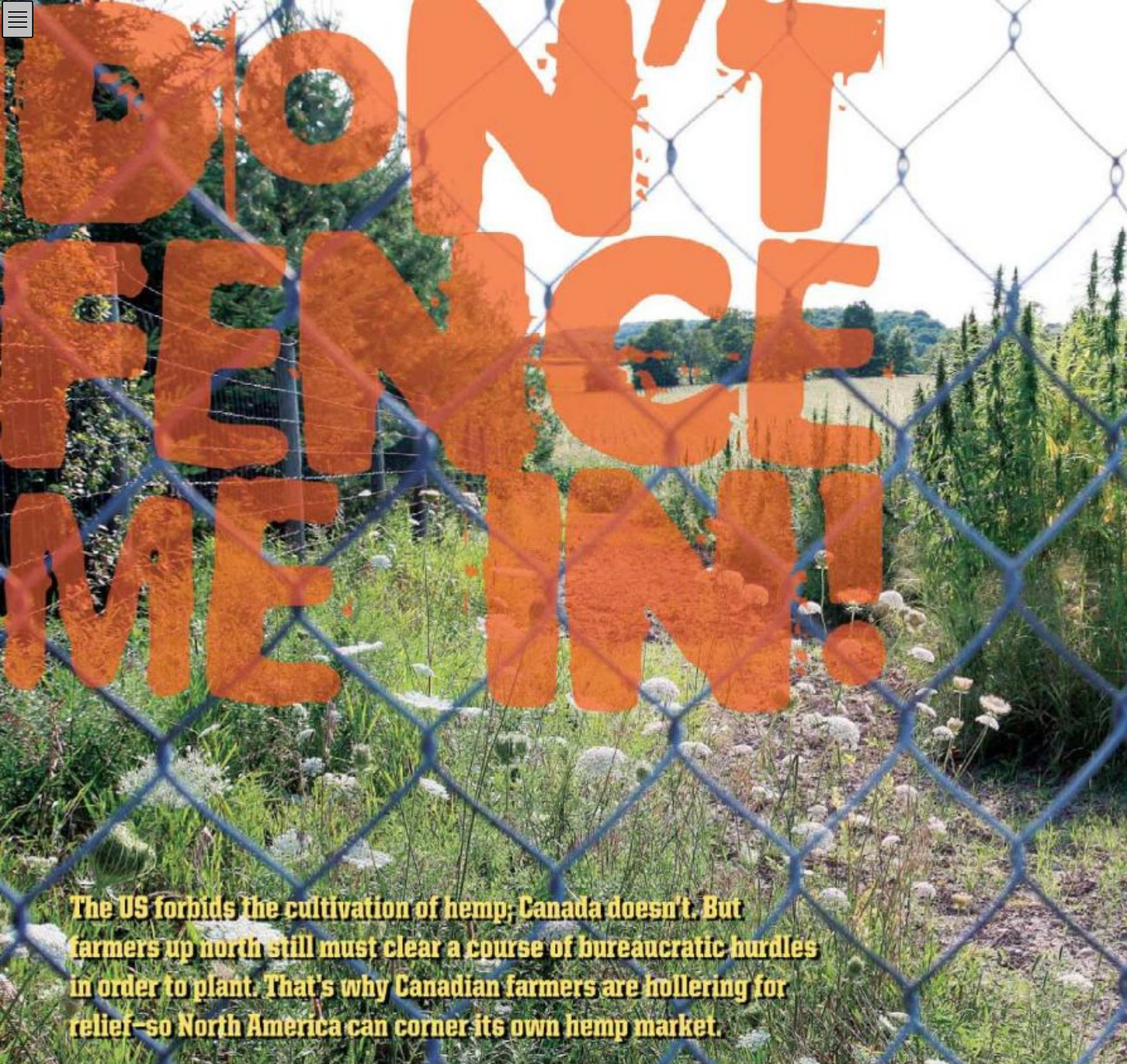
W.



X.



Y.



The US forbids the cultivation of hemp; Canada doesn't. But farmers up north still must clear a course of bureaucratic hurdles in order to plant. That's why Canadian farmers are hollering for relief—so North America can corner its own hemp market.

The Battle of York in 1813 was largely about hemp.

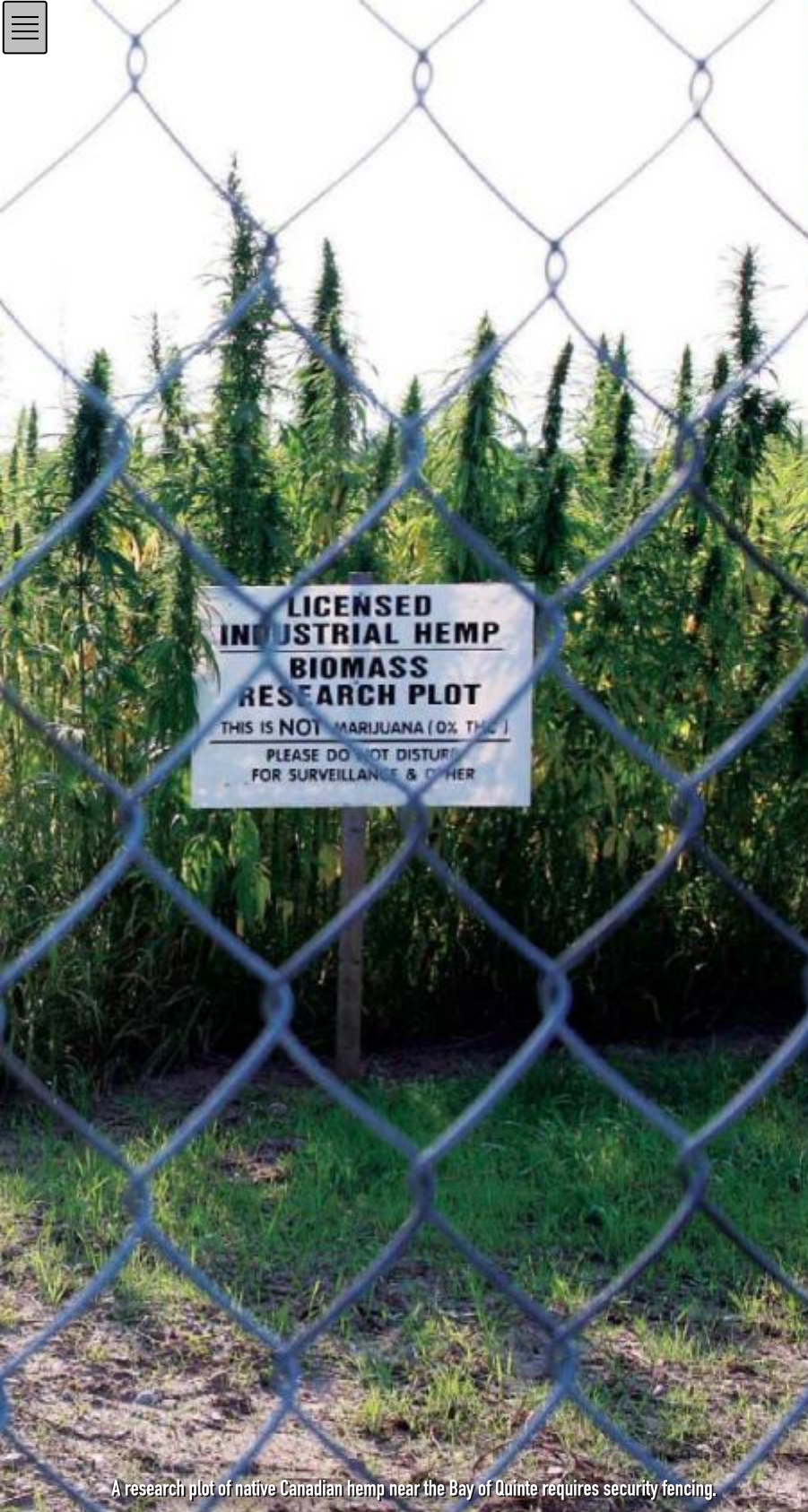


In the early 1800s, the life of a Canadian hemp farmer was somewhat different than today. The British government paid top dollar to farmers who agreed to grow hemp—and it was the local sheriff who distributed the seeds.

Back then, it was a military crop, vital to the British Navy, which required durable, locally grown fiber material to produce rope and sails. In fact, during the War of 1812, the Battle of York (present-day Toronto) was largely about hemp. The British were intent upon maintaining a strong military presence on the Great Lakes. But an American force supported by a naval flotilla defeated the defending British force, captured the town and dockyards, then burned ships and all of the navy's stores of hemp. They

also looted and vandalized homes and torched public buildings, including the Parliament building of Upper Canada. (A year later, British forces returned the favor by setting the White House on fire, badly damaging it.)

The war ended without the US ever gaining a foothold in Canada, and hemp managed to survive—without much help from the British government, which was inconsistent about paying hemp farmers. Without a financial return, farmers weren't apt to continue cultivating the sturdy hemp plant, which not only required extra manpower to harvest, but also involved a laborious process of separating the fiber from the stalk. In time, farmers abandoned the crop. But the plants continued to grow and adapt to



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A research plot of native Canadian hemp near the Bay of Quinte requires security fencing.

the harsh Canadian environment.

Now, 200 years later, several remarkable strains of Canadian hemp have emerged, and John Baker has discovered them. He's the president of Stonehedge Bio-Resources Inc. The company directs research efforts toward mounting commercial ventures and providing rural economic development in Eastern Ontario through the commercialization of industrial hemp.

Baker calls himself a "bio-pro prospector." Like a miner, he "looks for opportunities within the biosphere that may have economic opportunities." The one strain of hemp he found growing near the Bay of Quinte off Lake Ontario may be the mother lode.

"England probably imported the original seeds from the Black Sea region of Russia," Baker explains. "This particular strain has sur-

vived 200 years because it self-seeds in the fall. In the spring, the plant will actually begin to appear on the land at 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Typical European strains would perish in the ground over winter. This regeneration feature is something we want to take

advantage of because it extends the vegetation period, causing the yield of the crop to increase by 50 to 200 percent." Baker oversees an isolation plot of the strain, which he's named UC-B ("UC" stands for Upper Canada; "B" denotes the first letter of the farmer's last name on whose land the plants were found.) He also manages a number of other research plots. None of his work involves genetic modification. He is a traditional plant breeder who is looking to create the best commercial strains of industrial hemp possible.

"There will be huge benefits if we can harness the cultural practices surrounding the regeneration feature," he says. "We believe the foundation for UC-B will be the biochemical or fuel industry. It's low in fiber but very high in hurd or shiv, the woody part of the



A Buick Sebring hemp-composite part.

hemp plant, so it would be easy to manage. Its high hurd content would make it an ideal candidate for cellulosic ethanol."

Baker is researching a number of other hemp strains at additional sites. The goal for Stonehedge is to have a world-class hemp refinery up and running by early 2009, with the capacity to process a minimum of six tons of hemp an hour. The company is currently in the process of confirming equipment sales and a plant location. But there is a real sense of frustration over the labyrinth of regulations that hemp farmers must address,



John Baker, president of Stonehedge Inc..

even as similarly cultivated agricultural crops—like soybeans, wheat and corn—grow free, immune from government interference.

"There are endless numbers of forms in order to acquire permits to grow hemp," says Baker. "We have to get the THC tested for every variety in all of our fields and plots. The laboratory fees cost a fortune—about \$200 per strain—and we already know it's hemp! Then we have to file reports on each site we have and report any incidences of theft."

Unfortunately, it's not all that unusual for low-IQ stoners to disregard the "THIS IS NOT MARIJUANA" signs posted in fields, climb the fences encircling the crops, and grab samples to test for themselves whether the robust 12-footers are actually pot.

"All of this is a big bureaucratic expense for us—and it's expensive for the government, too. But hemp falls under the Controlled Substances Act—still. Sure, we can legally grow it, but there are a whole lot of rules and regulations."

Given cultural and economic trends indicating that "green" businesses will flourish in the coming years, North America will suffer if it can't process its own crops and capture its own marketplace. Currently, the hemp products with large-scale industrial applications—building material, matting, home insulation and automobile parts made of hemp-fiber composite—are manufactured using European hemp.

"We have got to get some manufacturing plants set up in Canada," Baker says. "It will increase the odds of hemp being legalized and farmed in the United States. Let's say we're producing thousands of tons of hemp products, whether it's a fiber, hurd or oil product—whatever it may be. If we get that going and export to the US, it will build the market to the point where opportunity will open up for everyone involved. Our immediate need is private sector investment to get this happening. The problem is, it's a new industry. Those who believe that industrial hemp has a great, green future should be looking to invest in these green, new ventures."—**Story & photos by Dan Skye**

Visit stonehedgebio.ca

HIGHWAY TO HELL. KEEP SHOOTIN', MAYBE YOU'LL HIT SOMETHING!

In August 2007, Eric Sage was pulled over on I-90 near Rapid City, SD, for "weaving" on his motorcycle. Sage, 30, was headed home to Sidney, NE, following the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. Three of his friends were driving ahead of him in his Nissan pickup. They stopped as well.

The highway patrolman decided to search the pickup, and he found a pipe in the purse of one of the two women passengers. The owner of the pipe freely admitted that it was hers, but incredibly, all four people were charged with "possession of paraphernalia," for which the standard punishment is a suspended jail sentence and a \$250 fine. The police report stated that everyone "admitted smoking marijuana that morning," although the patrolman's dash-cam videotape contradicted this statement. More to the point, the cop allowed the two vehicles and their passengers to continue down the road.

No definition of "possession" includes an individual's responsibility for the possessions of other people in a different vehicle. Understandably, Sage, who has a clean record, refused to agree to a guilty plea. At his arraignment, he suggested that Assistant State Attorney Gina Nelson take a look at the dash-cam tape. She responded by dropping the paraphernalia charge—but keeping the one for "ingestion of a



Eric Sage shows his disdain for SD prosecutors.

substance other than alcohol for the purpose of intoxication," which carries a \$2,000 fine and a year in jail.

Later in November, Pennington County State Attorney Glenn Brenner asserted that this mysterious "ingestion" had occurred in Meade County, where Eric had been camping. The case was transferred there, but Sage was still obliged to attend a preliminary hearing in Pennington County in November, necessitating a third 500-mile round trip to Rapid City. Unsure of what awaited him there, he decided to hire an attorney for \$750.

His lawyer called Assistant State Attorney Nelson several times prior to the court date. She didn't return the calls or respond in any way.

When Sage arrived in court, he found that Nelson had dismissed the charge five days earlier, citing "jurisdictional" problems.

It is a violation of the South Dakota Bar's code of ethics for a prosecutor to pursue a case for no other purpose than to cause financial damage, embarrassment or inconvenience. With the assistance of South Dakota NORML, Sage filed a complaint with the state bar's disciplinary committee. Nelson's statement in her defense argued that Sage could have avoided considerable expense simply by pleading guilty to a crime he didn't commit.

In April, the bar "admonished" Nelson. Unfortunately, Sage was still out \$4,000 defending himself against these baseless charges. Because higher courts routinely dismiss charges and lawsuits filed against law enforcement officials, Sage opted to sue the highway patrolman, Nelson and Brenner in small claims court. He explains that his lawyers concluded "there simply wasn't enough damage to merit the risk of dismissal after hours of preparation. I don't have \$5,000 to pay a lawyer when the damages awarded me, if any, would only amount to about \$4,000. How can a person get justice?"

In small claims court, on the other hand, filing fees are minimal, and a slim chance exists that the judge might not dismiss the case out of hand.—Bob Newland

Visit SoDakNORML.org

COKE IS STILL IT!

THE DEA CLAIMS A WIN, WHILE LOSING MISERABLY.

The war on cocaine continues to backfire, despite the recent trumpeting by the DEA that the drug's availability decreased in 38 large and midsize US markets during the first half of 2007. A closer look reveals that the agency doesn't really have much cause to celebrate—for several reasons.

According to the DEA's published report, entitled *National Drug Threat Assessment 2008*, the decreased availability of blow is attributable to several factors: the seizure of large cocaine shipments in transit to the US, successful law enforcement efforts against Mexican drug-trafficking organizations (or "DTOs," in DEA-speak) and violent turf wars among these DTOs. (Mexico is the main conduit for importing cocaine from the countries of South America into the US.) Cocaine shortages were most evident in the Great Lakes, New England, and mid-Atlantic regions of the country, though other places reported a decrease in availability as well, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Atlanta and Phoenix.

Not surprisingly, the scarcity of coke was accompanied by a marked increase in price, which was up a whopping 44 percent in some markets. Other areas reported only slightly higher prices—but regardless of the size of the increase, coke prices in various drug markets across the US seemed to rise simultaneously. Obviously, major coke dealers benefited from this situation, reaping increased profits and consolidated power due to fewer competitors. The DEA report even suggests that these dealers will be able to use the real or perceived decrease (depending on the city) in the supply of coke to artificially inflate prices for the foreseeable future—even if availability returns to 2006 levels.

But according to University of Michigan economics professor Mark J. Perry, the rise in coke prices and the decrease in availability could very well have more to do with the American dollar's decline in value than any DEA heroics. The DEA report also glosses over the fact that this has generated a corresponding decrease in the purity of the coke that is on the market, posing a number of potential health hazards. Injecting impure cocaine can be deadly, while repeated snorting can cause severe damage to the nose. Also, Harvard researchers report that the use of impure coke can result in a lethal constriction of the brain's blood vessels.

Finally, there's one more thing that has been routinely omitted from the mainstream media's reporting on this subject, although it's included on the DEA's own website: Indications are that the availability of cocaine may be returning to normal in some markets, and that cocaine-related crime, abuse and overdoses are not likely to diminish anytime soon.—Mark Miller



Higher prices and less availability equals victory?



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PROHIBITION: A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

A discussion with Paul O'Mahony

Irish criminology professor Paul O'Mahony, Ph.D., is a senior lecturer in psychology and head of the School of Occupational Therapy at Trinity College, Dublin. The author of several books on criminal justice, he has tackled the scourge of

prohibition in his latest offering, *The Irish War on Drugs: The Seductive Folly of Prohibition* (Manchester University Press). O'Mahony demolishes the warped logic of the War on (some) Drugs by arguing that the decision to use drugs is not only each individual's private and personal choice, but a fundamental human right. This anti-prohibitionist professor casts a sharp eye upon the current landscape of prohibition and surveys the prospects for change.

Explain your concept of a human right to use drugs.

There are several strands to my argument that governments should accept that citizens have a right to use drugs. First, I reject as utterly mistaken the prohibitionist claim that drug use is inherently morally wrong and consequently justifiably criminalized. Second, I see no alternative in democratic countries—which are committed to promoting and maintaining individual freedom—to the whole-hearted endorsement of [John Stuart] Mill's libertarian principle that the state should refrain from interfering with what people do with their own bodies and consciousness, even when this is harmful to themselves, so long as they are not directly harming others. Third, the American and many other legal systems recognize the rights to privacy and bodily integrity, which clearly imply that the law should grant people the responsibility for the management of their own consciousness, while holding them responsible for their behavior when intoxicated.

The Alaskan Supreme Court has already moved in this direction, ruling that the "possession of marijuana by adults at home for personal use is constitutionally protected." Finally, there is Cicero's argument that the nature of the law should be based on the nature of man. The ap-



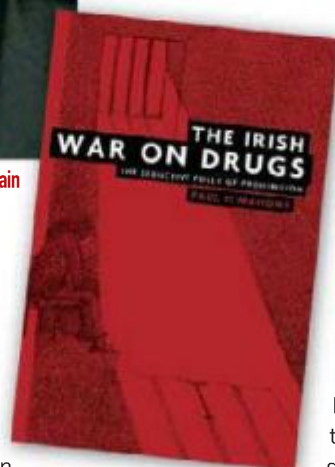
Paul O'Mahony says, "The state should refrain from interfering with what people do with their own bodies and consciousness."

petite for altered consciousness is natural and powerful. Humans—especially the young—have a natural urge to explore new experiences, and possess an inborn, stubborn sense of ownership of their own bodies and subjective experience. Laws that run counter to these aspects of our nature inevitably provoke resistance and cause more harm than good.

Despite the fact that cannabis is among the least harmful intoxicants, it is disproportionately demonized by the media and politicians. Why do you think this is?

Prohibition tends to equate all illicit drugs and condemn them all equally, because it is necessary to maintain a sharp but irrational distinction between illicit drugs and licit drugs—alcohol and medically prescribed drugs—which are so widely used and cause so much harm. However, the distinction is arbitrary, and the boundaries could easily be redrawn to include cannabis in the licit group. Prohibitionists fear the slippery slope that this reform would create: If cannabis, why not Ecstasy or cocaine? Hence we incur the "no surrender to cannabis" mentality and the absurd claim that it's a gateway drug. Prohibitionists argue that illicit drugs are condemned because of their inherent potential for harm. It is difficult to justify this view given the comparative dangers of licit drugs and cannabis, and given the reality that a very large number of people use cannabis

'Hallucinogens, euphorics and alcohol have been used as part of religious ritual since time immemorial.'



without disrupting their own or other people's lives. To divert attention from these embarrassing facts, prohibitionists tend to unduly focus on

and exaggerate the real but rare dangers of cannabis.

A recent Italian Supreme Court ruling set a European precedent by recognizing the religious right of Rastafarians to use cannabis. Do you believe that such a right could be established in other countries, or at the European Court of Human Rights?

Hallucinogens, euphorics and alcohol have been used as part of religious ritual since time immemorial. I believe that several jurisdictions, including the US, have recognized the right of certain religious groups to use drugs in this way. The European Court of Human Rights would be quite likely to endorse this right if a case was taken following rejection at the national level. However, I would see this as a form of exceptionalism with little relevance to the larger question, which is about the abolition of prohibition on the principled grounds that the individual has a right to choose.

However, this is another important demonstration that you can grant people a right to use drugs without the sky falling in. The legality of khat in many countries, and of magic mushrooms and BZP and others, are similar demonstrations. [BZP, or benzylpiperazine—also re-

ferred to as "A2," "Frenzy" and "Nemesis"—is a recreational drug with euphoric, stimulant properties. It is banned in the US, Australia, New Zealand and parts of Europe. However, its legal status is currently less restrictive in other countries, such as Ireland and Canada.]

Do you believe that the momentum for policy change is building?

The tipping point will be when opinion leaders and decision makers start to recognize the futility and self-defeating nature of prohibition. When exactly that occurs is unpredictable: The prohibitionist mindset still dominates at the UN and most national governmental levels. The evidence and compelling arguments against prohibition are accumulating and are convincing many thoughtful people, but they are still largely ignored at the government level.

The US is increasingly out of step with Europe in its law-enforcement-led approach to illicit drugs. Do you think that a Barack Obama presidency would bring US policy more in line with harm-reductionist Europe?

Much of European harm reductionism is based on American models. Europe has a softer form of prohibition, but it is firmly prohibitionist nonetheless. However, internationally, the US leads the openly aggressive global war on the production and smuggling of illicit drugs. And, nationally, it has—in all but 12 states—a highly punitive approach to the small-scale possession of drugs, resulting in an appalling incarceration binge. Obama has indicated a willingness to embrace a form of depenalization with respect to cannabis, and he has shown that he is very concerned about the racial bias in drugs-law enforcement. If he can overcome the powerful right-wing lobby of the law-enforcement/corrections-industrial complex, he could usher in a new era of more tolerant and rational policies, which would, among other things, empower harm reductionists. A softer, more constructive approach on the international front is also a possibility.—Brendan Hogan



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HIGH NOON FOR AMERICAN POT SMOKERS

Let the decriminalization debate in Congress begin.

We are here today to support HR 5843, which, if passed, would strip the federal government of its authority to arrest responsible adult cannabis consumers—such as *myself*.

NORML supports the elimination of all criminal and civil penalties for the personal use of marijuana, regardless of whether one is smoking marijuana for medical use or for personal pleasure. This policy is generally called “decriminalization.”

We also support the right of consumers to cultivate marijuana for personal use. We further support the eventual establishment of a legally regulated market where marijuana smokers could buy their marijuana in a safe and secure environment. This model is generally called “legalization.”

There is absolutely nothing wrong with the responsible use of marijuana by adults, and this should be of no interest or concern to the government. It makes no sense to continue to treat nearly half of all Americans as criminals. Each year in this country, we arrest more and more of our citizens on marijuana charges. Last year, 830,000 Americans were arrested on marijuana charges, and 88 percent of those arrests were for personal possession and use, not trafficking. Since 1965, a total of nearly 20 million Americans—predominantly young people under the age of 30—have been arrested on marijuana charges; more than 11 million marijuana arrests have been made just since 1990. Currently, 47 percent of all drug arrests in the country are for marijuana, and another marijuana smoker is arrested every 38 seconds.

Numerous state and federally commissioned reports, including the 1972 report of the National



Allen St. Pierre speaks alongside Barney Frank.

Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse entitled *Marihuana: A Signal of Misunderstanding* (a.k.a. the Shafer Commission Report), concluded that we should decriminalize marijuana and stop arresting responsible smokers. Twelve states in America have adopted decriminalization as their marijuana policy—which equates to one out of three citizens living in a

state or municipality that has already decriminalized the adult possession of marijuana.

With alcohol, we acknowledge the distinction between use and abuse, and we focus our law-enforcement involvement on efforts to stop irresponsible use. We do not arrest or jail responsible alcohol drinkers. That should be our policy with marijuana as well. As President Jimmy Carter said in a message to Congress in 1977: “Penalties against drug use should not be more damaging to the individual than the use of the drug itself. Nowhere is this more clear than in the laws against the possession of marijuana in private for personal use.”

HR 5843, as its name indicates, is the Bill to Remove Federal Penalties for the Personal Use of Marijuana by Responsible Adults. It is a sound proposal that would get the federal government out of the business of policing minor marijuana offenses altogether, and leave the states free to experiment with new and innovative programs for regulating and controlling the responsible use of marijuana. 🌿

These remarks were delivered by NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre in July at a Capitol Hill press conference with bill co-sponsors Barney Frank (D-MA), Barbara Lee (D-CA) and William Lacy Clay (D-MO). Contact your elected policymakers to support HR 5843. For more information, visit norml.org.

FREEDOM FIGHTER

ON THE MOVE WITH DOUG HIATT

NORML Legal Committee member Doug Hiatt, a former union organizer and public defender, is a criminal defense lawyer in Seattle who is working to ensure that law enforcement institutions in the state of Washington comply with the state’s medical-cannabis laws and treat citizens who possess cannabis—for whatever reason—with the same dignity and respect that alcohol, tobacco and pharmaceutical consumers enjoy.

What does a normal year for Doug look like? Hiatt ricochets around the state representing med-pot patient-advocates like Martin Martinez from Cascadia NORML and CannabisMD.org, whose patient-information center was recently raided. He is a frequent visitor to Olympia, the state capital, where he lobbies the legislature and has testified in favor of more responsive laws that privilege the health of citizens and patients, not the prohibitionist tendencies of the state. He is known for his rousing speeches, whether they’re delivered at NORML’s legal seminars or from the main stage of the world’s biggest pro-cannabis rally, the Seattle Hempfest. He has also represented medical-cannabis patients like Tim Garon, an organ transplant candidate who was denied access to the organ bank because he tested positive for cannabis—which he was using legally under state law. (Unfortunately, denied a liver transplant, Tim passed away earlier this year.)

There are thousands of lawyers in this world. Some are charmers, some are walking encyclopedias, and many are in it for the money. But there are also those who rightly view their profession as the citizenry’s principal defense against unconstitutional law enforcement practices, government oppression and legal encroachment on individual freedoms. Some, like Hiatt, are truly inspirational.—ASP

Hear Hiatt and other NORML Legal Committee members discuss cannabis laws, criminal law and civil rights at stash.norml.org



Hiatt lays it out.

Ask Dr. Mitch



Dr. Mitch,
Can dogs and other animals get high?

Sally Yang

Hi Sally,
Yep, animals can get high—any living thing that has cannabinoid receptors responds to THC. Even the hydra, a dinky freshwater animal best studied under a microscope, starts eating more when stimulated with THC. So if you get your pets high and they eat all your munchies, remember it’s only natural.

Did all the exaggerated warnings we hear about marijuana start in the 20th century to support prohibition?

Naftali

Hi Naftali,
Actually, folks were telling lies about cannabis over a millennium ago. Around the 10th century, Ibn Wahshiyah’s Arabic text *On Poisons* warned that hashish renders one blind and mute, eventually leading to continuous retching and death. In fact, none of these effects has ever been documented—and as far as retching is concerned, marijuana actually helps to relieve nausea and vomiting.

I know about medical marijuana for cancer patients who need to get their appetite back and keep from barfing, but what’s this about it actually shrinking tumors?

Jenna J.

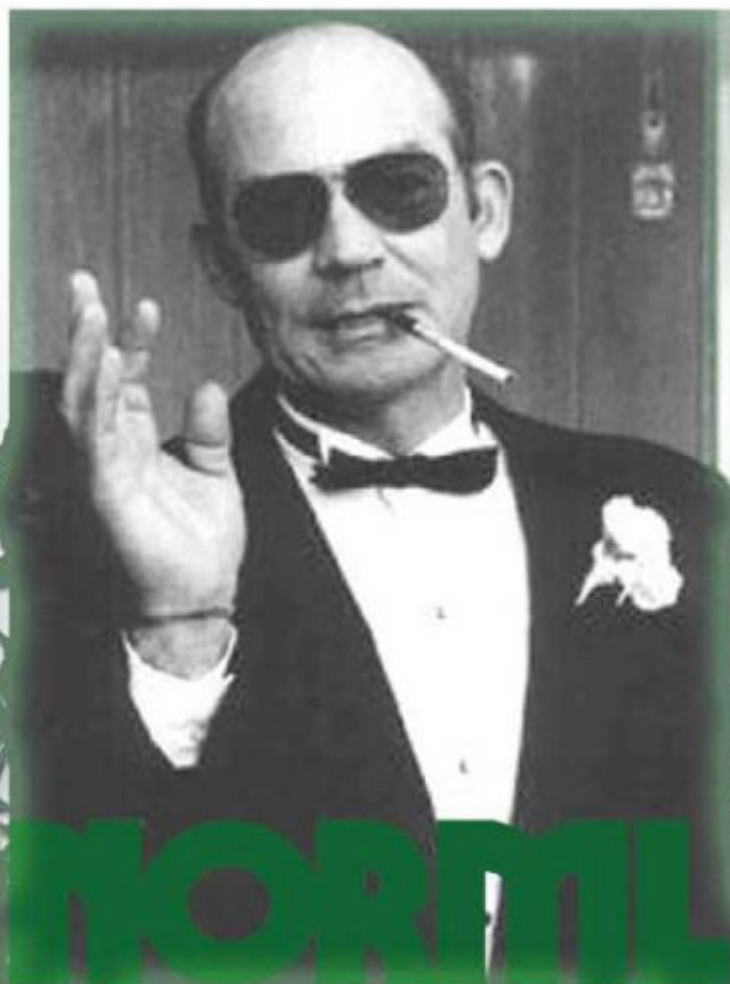
Hi Jenna,
Marijuana doesn’t shrink tumors. Nevertheless, when human breast-cancer cells are placed in a Petri dish in the laboratory, anandamide—the body’s own natural cannabinoid—will keep them from multiplying. (Anandamide stimulates the same receptor as THC, but in a different way.) So while smoking pot isn’t cancer prevention, cannabinoid medicine clearly has some remarkable potential.

Please settle another bet. My cousin says marijuana smokers earn less money; I say no dice. Who’s right?

K. Kinsey

Hi K,
You win this one! Most studies show no link between personal income and marijuana use, but some have found that folks who earn more are also more likely to light up. I’m thinking of two studies in particular: One found that men who used marijuana earned more money, the other that wealthier neighborhoods had a higher number of cannabis users.

*Dr. Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D., is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany. He is the author of *Understanding Marijuana and The Parents’ Guide to Marijuana*. Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.*



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"I have always loved marijuana. It has been a source of joy and comfort to me for many years. And I still think of it as a basic staple of life, along with beer and ice and grapefruits - and millions of Americans agree with me."

-Hunter S. Thompson

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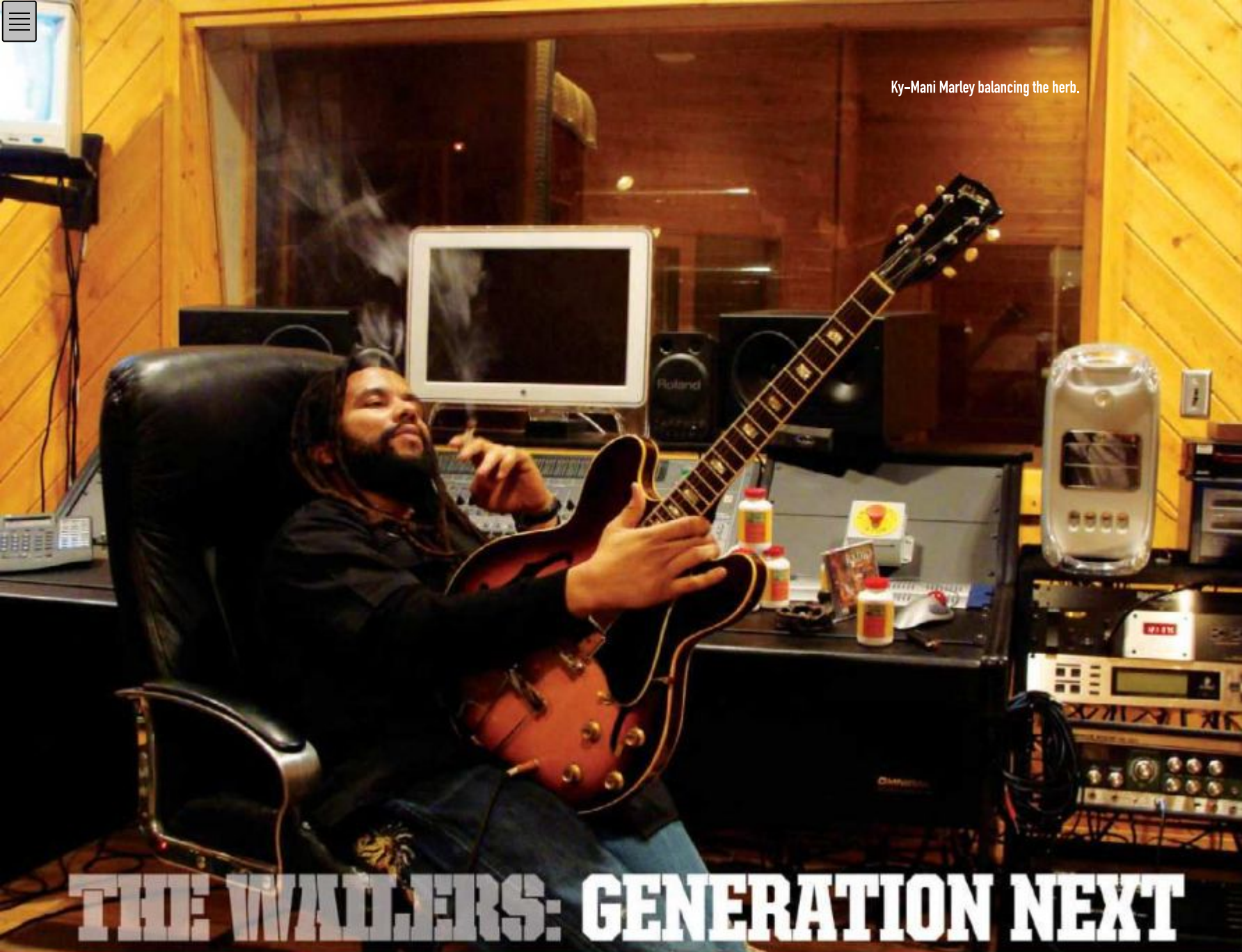
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THE WAILERS: GENERATION NEXT

If you're reading this now, it might very well mean that you're one of the lucky few (as in few thousand) basking in the blissful billows of the world's best buds at the 21st annual HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup. And as you're getting lost in the annals of pot fame and the beautiful alleyways of Amsterdam, be sure you remember to make it back to the Power Zone by 10 p.m. on November 27 for the Cup's grand finale. This year marks one of the most monumental musical appearances in the harvest festival's history; a Second Generation of reggae musical genius will be taking the stage—the offspring of the three original founders of Bob Marley and the Wailers: Bob Marley's second-youngest son, Ky-Mani Marley; Peter Tosh's son, Andrew Tosh; and the daughter of Bunny Wailer, Cen'C Love.

BY MARY OUGHT SIX

There's no question that the reggae explosion that took the world by storm back in the early '70s was greatly due to the revolutionary music of the Wailers and their message of Jah, love and political uprising—born in the ghetto of Trench Town in Kingston, Jamaica, and embraced across cultural gaps worldwide. There are times, give thanks, when the truth cannot be held back.

To this day, in many of the best locations peppering the planet, it's impossible to walk down the street on any given day and not hear the voices and melodies of these poetic prophets, more often than not accompanied by the sweet smell of sinsemilla. These songs are classic anthems. Timeless.

And from them naturally emerge the latest standard-bearers of the reggae movement. Within and outside the inherited talent of the Wailers' children, countless groups have carried on and passed the torch, adding their own touches and getting modern with the ever-changing and ever-problematic world around them. The 21st century has seen the emergence of dancehall and reggaetón, among many other manifestations of the reggae groove—still pungent with the search for social reform, but resonating beat-wise with newer popular music and thus adapting to the times.

Ky-Mani Marley is a prime example. Born in Ja-

maica but brought up in the States, his musical influences were vast and varied. "Jamaica is the root ... but I was raised in Miami, so I have a lot of love for both places," he explains. "Everything I learnt about being a man, I learnt in Miami."

His music speaks volumes to the diversity striking chords within Ky-Mani. "My love of music as a whole drew me to many genres," says this down-to-earth, spliff-taking Marley. On his album *Radio*, Ky-Mani mixes in hip-hop, R&B, jazz and rock along with the reggae riffs. He's toured with Van Halen and stars in the BET reality series *Living the Life of Marley*, where he also collaborates heavily with his large family. "I'm very close to my family," he notes. "My brothers are involved in everything I do musically."

That closeness and involvement, of course, includes Dad. Though he admits not being able to imagine his father experimenting with hip-hop beats, Ky-Mani adds: "Listening to my father's music helps to motivate and inspire me to write."

He was only five years old when Bob Marley passed away, but one vivid scene from Ky-Mani's childhood sticks out from the rest. "I have one memory—going to the country with my parents, my older brother Stephen, and a friend of my father's. We went into the bushes to play with a slingshot. I lost the slingshot, and I knew I was going to get in trouble. When I told my father

Don't mess with Cen'C Love.



at Trench Town's Tribute to Bob Marley. They performed the song "Creation" together, which they also cover on Cen'C's soon-to-be-announced album from Revolutionary Entertainment, a Wailer family label.

Cen'C Love's music is a fusion of tradition and the new school, woven together by her beautifully wavering voice and poetic lyrics. She believes strongly that the power behind the Wailers' music is continually needed in this world. "The whole idea of equal rights and justice for all humans—the true emancipation of Africans, love and peace—these are things we are still working on in this time," she says. "So I feel it is a responsibility to keep that fire burning, as there is still



Andrew Tosh, son of Peter, "The Minister of Marijuana."

Andrew Tosh: 'To be playing with a Livingston and a Marley, it will be like the rebirth of the Wailers.'

much improvement to be made. Through music, the Wailers have helped spread the message of truth around the world, to free people mentally—the most important step to real liberation."

Cen'C refers to ganja as her best friend (and admits that her other friends are sometimes jealous), adding that it's part of her natural heritage: "I have been smoking herb since I was a fetus—Ganja Baby, some might say. So it is inevitable for me to be an herbalist now." A "purist" herbalist, Cen'C is a big supporter (along with Ky-Mani Marley) of this year's Cannabis Cup sponsor, Balance the Herb, a smoking supplement that contains vitamins and herbs. "Balance the Herb does just what it says: It balances the herb. I get to full-joy the euphoria without the side effects of smoking anything. I don't feel drowsy or groggy—especially in the case where I can't get high grade."

Jamaica remains this goddess's favorite place to taste the ganj. "I always say, 'The best is from the west.' Jamaica's west coast is home to some of the sweetest ganja on the planet. But I still have yet to try some other high grade ... in Amsterdam."

High grade is a guarantee at the Cup, and Cen'C is looking forward to it—along with a big dose of Second Generation family love. "I am so excited about playing with my cousins at the Cannabis Cup," she says. "It *still* doesn't seem real."

So if you weren't one of the many to give thanks on the cobble-stoned streets of Amsterdam at this year's Cup, don't worry: We smoked one for you with the hope that we'll catch you next year. In the meantime, be sure to keep track of these always-elevating Second Generation stars as they fashion the next wave of reggae music.

In the words of Bob Marley and the Wailers: "Won't you help to sing / These songs of freedom ... ?" ✨

respected in that light—'cause, as you know, he is the Minister of Marijuana."

Much more in sync with traditional reggae stylings, Andrew says that he feels a great responsibility to his father whenever he's onstage: "Because of the standard that my father set, the expectations of the fans are very high, so I have to maintain that quality."

Andrew's first musical lessons started at the age of 12, when his father taught him chords on the piano—and also, naturally, how to puff the herb. "He gave me my first draw off a spliff that he made," Andrew recalls. His father also taught him why: "I smoke herbs for divine, spiritual reasons. Not for fun—inspirational reasons."

The description of his latest project rings true to that tradition, as Andrew explains: "*Andrew Sings Tosh* is co-produced by Bunny Wailer and me. It consists of 80 percent Peter Tosh compositions—most of his memorable songs and two originals, one of which is the track 'He Never Died.' The other original song is 'If I Did Know.'"

Bunny Wailer is also collaborating with his daughter, Cen'C Love, on her upcoming album. Andrew and Cen'C both played earlier this year

what happened, he just laughed and hugged me."

A beautiful illustration of love and good lessons, it speaks to a purity behind the music that is eternally dear. Bob Marley was the first inductee into the HIGH TIMES Counterculture Hall of Fame, so this is bound to be a special night for Ky-Mani—and equally so for Andrew Tosh, as this is the year when his father, a reggae legend in his own right, becomes the newest honoree to grace the Hall of Fame. Andrew elaborates: "To be playing with a Livingston [Bunny Wailer's family name] and a Marley, it will be like the rebirth of the Wailers. We'll definitely perform a Wailers tribute together. It's an honor to see my father

BEDOUIN BRAINS

While Bad Brains' future remains undecided, young Canadians Bedouin Soundclash follow in their wake. **By Chris Parker**



The classic Brains lineup of Earl, Darryl, H.R. and Dr. Know, outfitted in clothes designed by HT's very own Natasha Lewin.

tinued to tour the country with his reggae-folk band the Dubb Agents, H.R. was missing from the Brains' spring South American tour. Israel Joseph I (the singer from 1993's *Rise* album) appeared in his stead—meaning that the future of Bad Brains is as questionable ever, thanks to that riddle-wrapped enigma, H.R.

"He's the Michael Jackson of hardcore," says Bedouin Soundclash singer Jay Malinowski. He's heard some of the crazy stories from Bad Brains bassist Darryl Jenifer, who produced the band's last two albums, including last year's Canadian hit, *Street Gospels*.

That one was nominated for a Juno (Canada's answer to the Grammys) as the Best Pop Album of the Year, after Bedouin Soundclash won Best New Group for 2004's *Sounding the Mosaic*, also produced by Jenifer.

"Being nominated with Celine Dion and Anne Murray in Canada is a big deal," Malinowski says. "We were definitely shocked—honestly. We felt like the black sheep."

While Bedouin Soundclash have always been hard to pin down stylistically, their success validates the appeal of their broad-palette approach—much like the Brains themselves. *Street Gospels* covers a nice spectrum of sound while maintaining the band's reggae roots, from the anthemic ska bounce of "Walls Come Down" and the R&B-flavored, horn-abetted "12:59 Lullaby" to the ambling, Clash-tinged "Gunships."

"We had been listening to a lot of gospel, soul, classic reggae and ska," bassist Eon Sinclair says. "There's a sensibility about those genres, a certain realness that just pops out and has to rub off on you if you immerse yourself. All [the success and touring] compounded and gave us a cer-

The future of Bad Brains is as questionable ever, thanks to that riddle-wrapped enigma, H.R.

tain sense of maturity about what we were doing that I think

comes across on the new album as well."

And given all the help and guidance that Bad Brain Darryl Jenifer has offered, Malinowski describes him as almost a father figure.

"I can't believe I said it, but he actually is," he laughs, adding: "You've got to think: If your father's in Bad Brains, what are *you* going to become? But seriously, he's a knowledgeable guy. We could've gone out and tried to get someone like Rick Rubin, but we feel really comfortable with him. He

understands our band in a spiritual way that I don't think a lot of people do. We always appreciate him being around, even if he's not producing a record."

The band's also done work with Jenifer on a Bedouin Soundclash/Bad Brains mash-up that was spurred by the *Street Gospels* sessions. It's planned for release in 2009 on Pirate's Blend, the band's personal imprint on their Canadian label, Dine Alone. (They're on SideOneDummy in the States.)

Meanwhile, Malinowski is happy to relax in Vancouver, where he grew up and has watched the weed trade flourish. "It's so ingrained in the culture on the [Canadian] west coast. Everyone grows it—it's the best place to grow it in North America, really."

Though both he and Sinclair smoke, Malinowski does chafe at the frequent requests to take part in marijuana marches simply because of their association with reggae. "It's not that we don't believe in the power of marijuana," he says. "It's that becoming involved with [marches] distracts from the real message of our music, which has nothing to do with weed."

Even if it might best be enjoyed high. ✨

Nothing has ever sounded as crisply combustible as the fiery hardcore of Bad Brains. Celebrating their 30th year in 2007, the band reconvened to release *Build a Nation*, produced by Beastie Boy Adam Yauch.

The album hints at the feral fury and uncanny precision (earned in their early days as the jazz-fusion outfit Mind Power) of their 1981 self-titled ROIR debut, and suggests a triumphant comeback after years of squabbling, breakups, false starts and missed opportunities.

Balancing their extreme-rock aggression with deep reggae grooves, Bad Brains championed a sonic iconoclasm that characterized and helped define the nascent American hardcore movement during the late '70s/early '80s. Though critical accolades were always forthcoming, internal tensions dogged the band, highlighted by their mercurial singer H.R.'s penchant for attacking fans or their manager, or simply failing to show.

Speaking at a concert shortly after the album's release, the wiry Rasta appeared relaxed and happy, saying that over the years, "I've learned to be a lot more patient and more professional."

Adam Yauch gets plenty of credit for the album's release. "He was the key to us getting together," H.R. says. "We've been brothers and sisters from our first records, and we decided to give it a whirl."

H.R. is relatively nonplussed by the manner in which the Brains' critical reputation and cult following has grown over the years, attracting many more fans than they had on those first tours. "In those days, we only visualized it—now it's our reality," H.R. offers. "We were able to obtain necessary support from our listeners, and now we want to get a bunch of them together."

However, his earnestness would appear to be misplaced: Though he's con-

Bedouin Soundclash's Eon Sinclair and Jay Malinowski.



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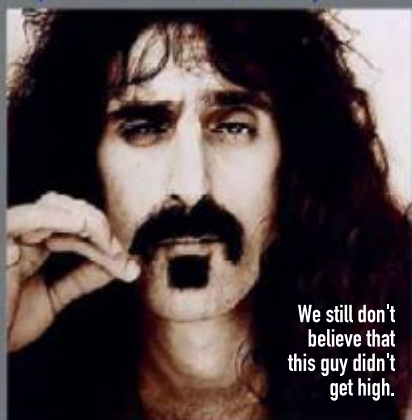
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FRANK ZAPPA

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 ★★☆☆

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 (Vaulternative)
 ★★☆☆

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 (Honker Home Video)
 ★★☆☆



We still don't believe that this guy didn't get high.

In the general public's view, the legacy of the great American composer/joker/iconoclast Frank Zappa will no doubt always be nutshellled by the wisdom imparted in the words to his most famous song: "Watch out where the Huskies go / And don't you eat that yellow snow." Yet while those words ring true to this very day, they have also served to obscure Zappa's vast contributions to the 20th-century musical and cultural canon, serious and otherwise.

When Zappa died of prostate cancer in 1993 at the age of 52, he left behind a huge pile of music in the vaults—both finished and unfinished studio works representing his rock and modern-classical sides, as well as a slew of live recordings in varying degrees of audio quality. Zappa's widow Gail and archivist Joe Travers have been sifting through this material and releasing it in dribs and drabs. *Wazoo*,

on the Zappa trust's Vaulternative Records label, was recorded live at Boston Music Hall on September 24, 1972, in the last performance by Zappa's 20-piece orchestra, which he called the Grand Wazoo/Hot Rats/Mothers of Invention band.

The Grand Wazoo orc was not just another rock'n'roll band, but neither was it a serious classical ensemble. Featuring a raft of Hollywood session heavy hitters on brass and rhythm-section duties, and centering on the hot-shit chops of several of the Mothers, *Wazoo* boasts a bizarrely beautiful instrumental palette that includes contrabass, "sarrusophone," euphonium, baritone horn, and live electronics (along with hammer-on-guitar sophistry and "white stick with cork handle" courtesy of Zappa himself). The pieces, for the most part, reveal Zappa's deft twists on scoring for a modern-jazz ensemble, livened up with a lot of guitar soloing (some of it still excitingly inventive, a lot of it kinda dated and noodly-sounding).

Vaulternative has also issued *One Shot Deal*, a compilation of mostly instrumental live and studio recordings from 1972 to 1981. These are guitar-heavy tracks spanning a wide range of Zappa's other styles. Mainstays and variants like "Bathtub Man Blues," "Hermitage," an instrumental "Trudgin' Across the Tundra," "The Illinois Enema Bandit" and a wicked electric guitar solo in "Occam's Razor" highlight this valuable document, which is decidedly *not* for collectors only.

And then there's the Zappa trust's home-video release of the 1981 concert DVD *The Torture Never Stops*—another valuable document, although this time mainly for guitar-wank freaks, who'll cream over these massive loads of guitar-shred one-on-one between Zappa and young ax slinger Steve Vai. As an added bonus, the package includes a set of Frank Zappa temporary tattoos and a pair of Honker Home Video's exclusive No-D glasses. —John Payne

TERMANOLOGY

Politics As Usual
 (ST Records)
 ★★☆☆



In today's flooded hip-hop market, it's not often that a new independent artist can hit the scene and generate so much attention before even dropping an album. Co-signed by some of today's best known hip-hop producers, Termanology's true-to-the-street lyrics have quickly gained the respect of some of the industry's biggest tastemakers. Accordingly, his debut album, *Politics As Usual*, boasts a virtual who's who of hip-hop, including grade-A beats from legends DJ Premier, Pete Rock, Hi-Tek, Alchemist, and Havoc (Mobb Deep), and features from the likes of Bun B, Freeway, MOP, Mobb Deep and more.

While one would be hard-pressed to find a song where Term isn't professing his love for the good green, his passion is most obvious on the great weed anthem "Float." The perfect track to zone out to, "Float" would make anyone want to roll up. Termanology boasts: "I smoke about an O a day / Nothing but that 'dro and Haze"—and if that weren't clear enough, he continues: "I smoke heavy even with my pastor / I might cough up a lung but it ain't my asthma."

The onetime weed dealer turned rapper has honed his skills to deliver one of this year's stellar hip-hop experiences. Capturing the short attention span of the video-game generation while mixing in a healthy dose of golden-era spirit is a feat seldom achieved these days. *Politics As Usual's* no-nonsense approach to the music is refreshing, and it rivals any debut album in recent hip-hop history. —Zoot Simms

GRUPO FANTASMA

Sonidos Gold
 (Aire Sol Records/High Wire Music)
 ★★☆☆



Austin, TX, has historically inhaled musical talent like humans breathe air, so this ambitious 10-piece Latin groove project certainly needed more than the usual amount of chops to make it this far. To date, they've garnered a reputation as musicians' musicians, backing up Prince at his two-month residency at the 3121 club in Vegas as well as the indie-rock darlings Spoon. And if you get a chance to see these guys live, do it, as they always deliver the goods. However, many a great live group has found it difficult to transfer the same energy to the studio, and that's what prevents *Sonidos Gold* from taking off.

If their sister act Antibalas worships Fela Kuti, then Grupo's patron saint is obviously Santana: The fun and funky "Gimme Some" riffs wonderfully on Carlos's best-loved rhythms. Yet this group is more about ensemble power-sharing and flow between musical styles than it is about showcasing a single virtuoso. Whether it's Angel Quesada's guitar shimmering above the rhythm section, or the many bows to salsa, jazz, funk and cumbia in the music, everyone gets their fair share. Still, there's more polish than power here: While they're as tight as a mobster's fist on "Se Te Mira," the song only packs so much punch. That said, many a Deadhead considered the band's studio albums important, if only as an introduction to tracks they would later come to cherish in their superior live settings. One can say the same for *Sonidos Gold*. —Justin Hampton

ROGER STEFFENS & PETER SIMON

Reggae Scrapbook
 (Insight Editions)
 ★★☆☆



In addition to its unique and revolutionary sound (the emphasis on the second "jump beat" of the rhythm being the most obvious example), Jamaican music and the people who make it have always boasted a distinct *look*, whether you're talking about the mod hip of the early '60s or the urban streetwear of today. During the classic roots era, posters and album covers exploded with a combination of vibrant color and DIY graphics—and with the obligatory crown of dreads spilling down their shoulders and backs, the musicians had the ability to make anything from a tailored suit to a soccer jersey look crucial.

Reggae Scrapbook is culled from the massive record and memorabilia collection of Roger Steffens and the photo archive of Peter Simon, whose excellent *Reggae Bloodlines* gave many people outside of Jamaica their first peek at the scene way back in 1977. Reproduced are album covers, singles and posters (many inscribed to the author) pertaining to the island's music and culture. All of the great roots artists are well represented here, including Jimmy Cliff, Burning Spear, Lee Perry and, of course, Bob Marley.

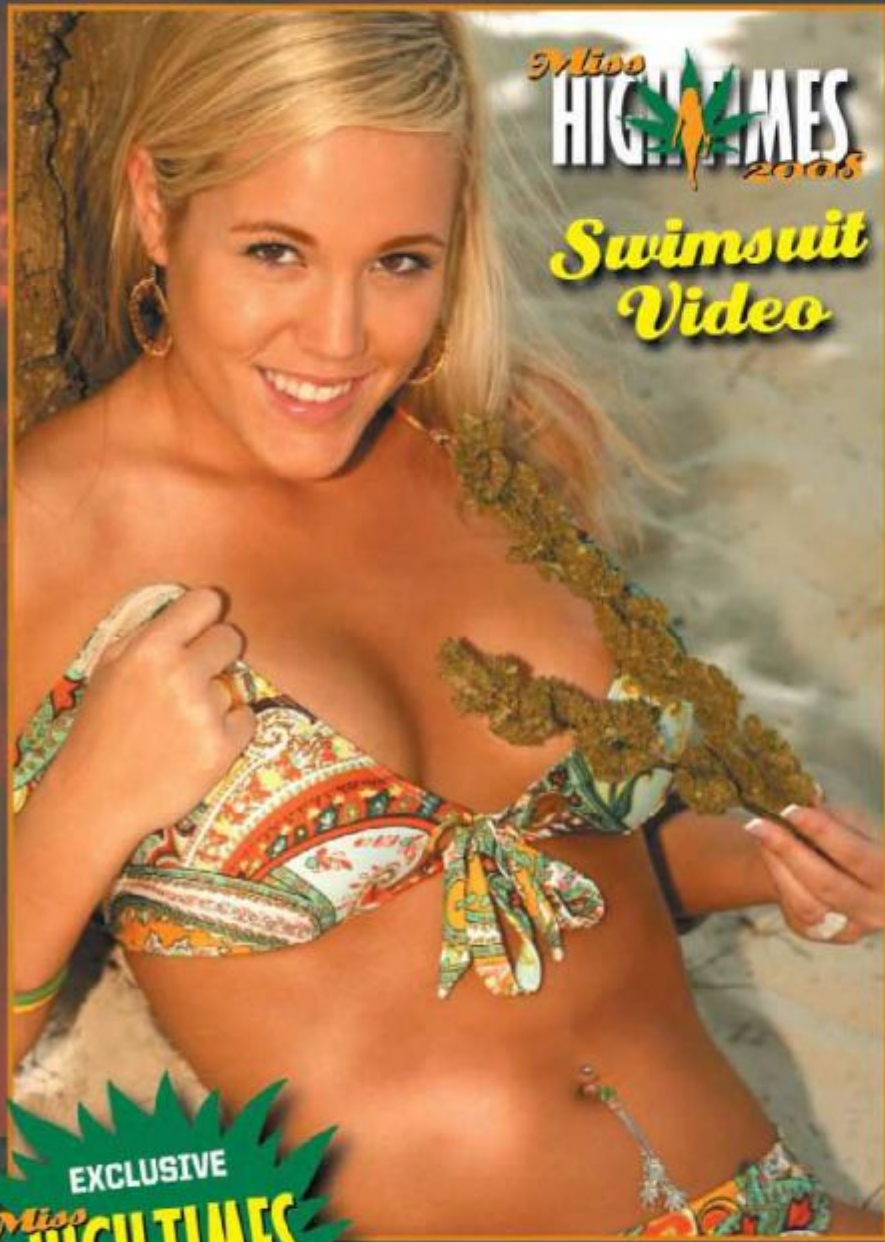
The book not only chronicles a genre of music, but the distinct mania of the record collector as well. Though it's interesting—even fascinating—to bear witness to such an archive, one gets the feeling that no one will ever get more pleasure out of this book than Roger Steffens himself.

Nevertheless, this is an enjoyable read for reggae diehards and newbies alike. —Chris Simunek

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THE GRATEFUL DEAD IN EGYPT

BY PAUL KRASSNER



top of the Great Pyramid. He was in training; it would be his honor to plant a Grateful Dead flag on top of the Great Pyramid, where the stone block that should've been the final piece was missing.

Pranksters Mountain Girl, Goldie Rush and I

decided to score some hash at a courtyard in the oldest section of Cairo. It came in long, thick slabs, and we eagerly sat down on benches to sample it. There was even a teenage boy whose official task was to light the "hubbly-bubbly," a giant water pipe that used hot coals to keep the hash burning.

Later, I found myself sitting and chanting in a tub-like sarcophagus (burial vault) with fantastic acoustics at the center of gravity in the Great Pyramid, after having ingested liquid LSD that a Prankster had smuggled into Egypt in a plastic Visine bottle. It was only as I breathed in deeply before each extended "Om" that I was forced to ponder the mystery of those who urinate there.

There was something especially magical about that final concert on Saturday. I had a strong feeling that I was involved in a lesson: It was as though the secret of the Dead would finally be revealed to me, if only I paid proper attention. That night would feature a full eclipse of the moon, and Egyptian kids were running through the streets shaking tin cans filled with rocks in order to bring it back.

"It's okay," I assured them, "the Grateful Dead will bring back the moon."

And sure enough, a rousing rendition of "Ramble On Rose" would accomplish that feat. The moon returned just as the marijuana cookie that rock impresario Bill Graham gave me started blending in with the other drugs. Graham no longer wore two wristwatches, one for each coast—he now had one wristwatch with two faces. There had been a slight problem with an amplifier, but a sound engineer said that it was "getting there."

"Getting there ain't good enough," Garcia replied. "It's gotta fuckin' *be* there."

This was a totally outrageous event. The line between incongruity and appropriateness soon disappeared along with the moon. The music was so powerful that the only way to go was ecstatic: That night, when the Dead played "Fire on the Mountain," I danced my ass off with all the others on that outdoor stage as if I had no choice.

"You know," Bill Graham confessed, "this is the first time I ever danced in public."

"Me too," I said.

That was the lesson. ✨

September marked the 30th anniversary of the Grateful Dead's unforgettable concerts in Egypt in 1978. Rhino Records has released a double-CD album of the event, but I was fortunate enough to actually be there with Ken Kesey and a bunch of Merry Pranksters. The Dead performed on three successive nights at an open-air theater in front of the pyramids, with the Sphinx keeping close watch.

Bob Weir looked up at the Great Pyramid and cried out: "What is it?!" Actually, it was the place for locals to go on a cheap date; the pyramids were surrounded by mounds of discarded bottle caps. A bootleg tape of Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis doing filthy shtick was being used for a preliminary sound check. Later, an American general complained to stage manager Steve Parish that the decadence of a rock'n'roll band performing here was a sacrilege to 5,000 years of history.

"Listen," Parish said, "I lost two brothers in 'Nam, and I don't wanna hear this crap."

The general retreated in the face of those imaginary brothers. There were a couple of real injured veterans, though: Drummer Bill Kreutzmann had fallen off a horse and broken his arm, but he would still be playing with the band, using one drumstick. And faithful Deadhead Bill Walton's buttocks had been used as a pincushion by the Portland Traiblazers' doctor so that he could continue to play basketball, even though the bones of his foot had been shattered with a pain he couldn't feel. Having been injected with painkilling drugs to hide the greed rather than heal the injury, he had to walk around with crutches. Maybe Kreutzmann and Walton could team up and enter the half-upside-down sack race.

An air of incredible excitement permeated the first night. Never had the Dead been so inspired. Backstage, Jerry Garcia was giving final instructions to the band: "Remember, play in tune." The music began with Egyptian oudist Hamza el-Din, backed up by a group tapping out ancient rhythms on their 14-inch-diameter tars (pizza-like drums). They were soon joined by drummer Mickey Hart; then Garcia ambled onstage with a gentle guitar riff, followed by Kreutzmann, Phil Lesh, Donna and Keith. As the Dead meshed with the percussion ensemble, basking in total respect for each other, Weir segued into the forceful opening chords of Buddy Holly's "Not Fade Away."

"Did you see that?" Kesey shouted. "The Sphinx's jaw just dropped!"

Every morning, my Prankster roommate George Walker got up early and climbed to the



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ALMOST INFAMOUS

INFAMOUS

BY BOBBY BLACK

Beer and Choking on the Campaign Trail of Part 2

*My Future First Lady and I
battle savage storms and cheat
death as our BBD Express
campaign tour—and my homage
to Hunter Thompson—reach
their feverish conclusion.*

*"Politicians, like journalists,
are pretty hard people to like."
—Hunter S. Thompson*

THE HIGHWAY

After our night at Mt. Rushmore, my FFL and I were back on the road—driving east on I-90 across South Dakota, then turning down into Nebraska and crashing in Omaha the next night before hitting I-80 through to Chicago. We'd have to be careful lighting up here: the pigs 'round these parts are fed a steady diet of steroid-enriched, genetically engineered uber-corn. Some even shoot up high-fructose corn syrup like junkies. But it turned out cops were the least of our problems. From the moment we entered Iowa until the moment we left, we were bombarded by a blizzard of Biblical proportion. Blind and desperate, I wrestled with the road while the Gods vomited all manner of fury upon our windshield—wind, fog, rain and even hail. After hours of meteorological persecution, we finally emerged from the deluge and entered Illinois—the home state of my homeboy Barack.

My next appearance was at a little smoke shop in northwestern Chicago called The Highway. Waiting there for us was Unkle Mike, founder of the stoner community service group Lokal 420, representatives from Illinois NORML, and reefer rappers The Individuals. Also there was my most devoted Blackolyte—Sweet Metal Wendy, who'd created a fan page for me (Bobby's Angels) and had driven two hours for the event. After the usual kissing hands and shaking babies, we all went across the street to the Hubble Hookah bar for a smoke, where I learned of Unkle Mike's unfortunate situation: just before we'd arrived, he'd been convicted in a Wisconsin court for growing around 200 plants of medicinal marijuana. Despite his dire situation, Mike was as kind, generous, and courageous as could be, and asked that I pass on this message to my readers:

"Start your own Lokal 420. Go out and do good deeds in your neighborhood, and let people know it's because you're a stoner, and you love humanity and society too and are not out to hurt it. That's the only way we'll get things changed."

A few days after we left, Mike was sentenced to three years in prison.

MEAN NIGHT IN CLEVELAND

After Chicago, we had one final and necessary stop on our American Odyssey—The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland.

We snaked through the tips of Indiana and Michigan and entered Ohio just before midnight. The road was dark and deserted, and FFL was behind the wheel as I took a quick nap. But I was awoken violently when some somnambulistic sonofabitch nodded off behind the wheel and veered into our lane, forcing FFL to swerve to avoid collision. Traveling at 80 miles per hour, that swerve had sent us into a 720-degree spin across the freeway.



Above: Representin with hip-hop activists The Individuals at The Highway. Center: Sweet Metal Wendy, creator of the "Bobby's Angels" MySpace page. Right: Unkle Mike of Chicago's Lokal 420.



"Jesus Baby!" I cried in panic as we spiraled across the road trying to regain control. Rather than my life flashing before my eyes, it was death that I saw—in vivid, brutal Technicolor: the car flipping over and over, landing on its roof, being whacked by another vehicle and bursting into flames, shattering our fragile bodies into burned, bloody and broken sacks of flesh. But after several revolutions, the car skidded to a halt mere centimeters from the center concrete divider. Shocked and shaken but unharmed, we made our way to the motel, where we consumed copious amounts of wine and weed and held each other until finally falling asleep.

We only spent about an hour at the Hall of Fame the next day, saving the special Doors exhibit for last. Staring down at Jim Morrison's death certificate, the weight of my mortality overwhelmed me—renewing my resolve to live each day to the fullest and make a difference. Somberly, we started up the Saturn, kissed the cats and headed home.

EPILOGUE

Much has changed since Hunter Thompson covered the presidential race of '72, yet much remains the same. Despite the horseshit shoveled at us by CNN, Washington, and the rest of the flag-sucking dullards, freedom is still a four-letter word in this country. Just ask Unkle Mike. It's up to people like us to carry on Hunter's Freak Power legacy by calling these hypocritical fuckers to task. Get involved by joining NORML and writing to your representatives. There are 25 million of us who smoke pot—if we stand together, we can redefine the American Dream one toké at a time and turn all these red and blue states into green states. That's what this Smoke the Vote campaign is all about. I don't expect you to vote for me, but I do expect you to vote. And unless you want four more years of lies and fear, for Chrissakes vote Democratic! Come on America, I'm counting on you—don't let me down this time.

This column is dedicated to Unkle Mike. Please help support his cause and family by going to lokal420.com.

Thanks to Lokal 420, The Individuals, The Highway, Illinois NORML, Sweet Metal Wendy, The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, the great Hunter S. Thompson and most of all my FFL for putting up with me. Register to vote and join NORML at smokethevote.org. See videos from the tour at hightimes.com/almostinfamous.



420
.com

Question? Authority

by Vaporella

HIGH TIMES' resident mistress of marijuana mayhem answers all of your questions and quandaries.

Dear Vaporella,
I know many of us are on medications these days—everything from common cold medicines to chemicals for brain imbalances and the like. So what I was wondering was: Which of these should we avoid while ingesting THC? In other words, which medications and medicines don't combine well with THC by acting on the same system or unbalancing another body system?

CustomViper2000

Since you've written to me and not, say, Dr. Mitch, I'll try to give you an intelligent lay stoner's opinion. So here goes nothing:

The psychoactive components in ganja that give you your high are the cannabinoids (primarily THC), which get picked up on by your brain via some neuronal doodads called cannabinoid receptors. These receptors' presence suggests that "cannabis affects the brain in the same manner as a naturally occurring brain chemical." (I'm quoting Wikipedia here, since that thing knows it all!) Also, "the effects of cannabis on the brain follow the standard protocol of signal transduction, the electrochemical system of sending signals through neurons for a biological response. It is now understood that cannabinoid receptors appear in similar forms in most vertebrates and invertebrates and have a long evolutionary history of 500 million years."

So, the human body was designed by evolution over the course of 500 million years to bond with THC. Which is doubtless why marijuana is one of the safest, least toxic drugs you can take, and can be effective in treating over 250 illnesses and conditions. And why it's routinely metabolized and rarely interacts with over-the-counter medications and pharmaceuticals, at least in my experience.

Of course, that will vary with individual metabolism. Some cough medicines can give a person the spins and vomits, while others might not be able to experience the high when they ingest pot brownies. And you'll sometimes hear of someone on Zoloft who finds that ingesting pot will actually *increase* their anxiety. Every pill or potion is designed to affect your body in its own particular way, so it's important to do your research and learn about its effects, side effects and potential interactions before you decide to start playing mixologist with your internal chemistry. Erowid.org's an interesting place to look, but you should always go to your doctor with any questions or concerns about a specific drug.

I hope this helps, 'cause I ain't no scientist or nothing. But I do want you to be safe and healthy so you can write back with any more questions. ✨

Got a question for Vaporella? Email it to her at vaporella@hightimes.com.



MISS DECEMBER

NAME: Jessica **AGE:** 23 **CITY:** Phoenix, AZ

OCCUPATION: bartender, artist

HOBBIES: reading, singing, hiking, writing, anything artsy (drawing, scrapbooking, painting), watching movies and football, poker nights, boardgames, volleyball, softball

SPIRITUAL BELIEFS: I believe in freedom and inner beauty. Love is my religion.

WHAT'S ON YOUR IPOD?

Zeppelin, The Doors, The Beatles, Bowie, Buddy Guy, Jack Johnson, Jason Mraz, 311, Sublime, all the Marleys, Ben Harper, G-Love, Coldplay, Amy Winehouse, Creedence, Heart, Dylan, Weezer, Floyd, Norah Jones, Lenny Kravitz, Joan Baez, Rush

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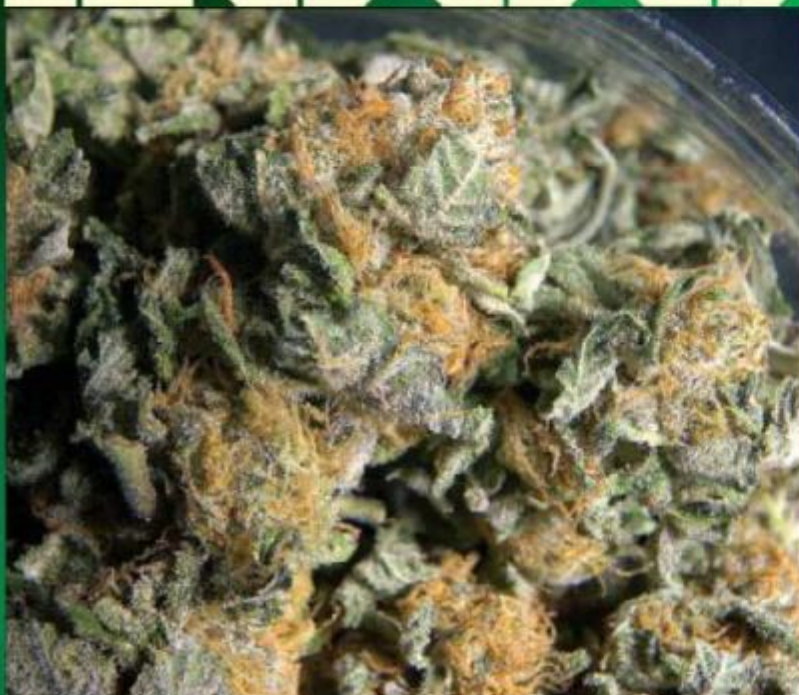
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INDOOR GROW TIP
Stop fertilizing at least a week before harvest. Many growers stop fertilizing two or more weeks before harvest. Continue to fertilize with a super-bloom formula high in phosphorus and potassium and very low nitrogen if you plan to harvest next month.

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An advertisement for TSUNAMI waterpipes. The background is a deep teal color with a white wave pattern. On the left, two waterpipes are shown: one is clear glass and the other is amber-colored. On the right, two more waterpipes are shown, one clear and one amber. The text "TSUNAMI" is written in large, white, serif font, with "THE ULTIMATE WAVE" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. Below the text, the following features are listed: "CLEANER SMOKE", "REDUCES CARCINOGENS THROUGH AIR JETS", and "AFFORDABLE QUALITY GLASS". At the bottom, the text reads: "Ask your smoke shop about TSUNAMI.", "For more info:", "888-959-WAVE(9283)", "or", "info@tsunamiwaterpipe.com", and "www.tsunamiwaterpipe.com".

PETER TOSH CHALLENGES THE SHITSTEM

On November 27, 2008, Peter Tosh was inducted into the HIGH TIMES Counterculture Hall of Fame at the Cannabis Cup Awards Show in Amsterdam. The leading historian of reggae culture attended the ceremony and wrote this tribute to one of marijuana's greatest advocates. By Roger Steffens

"It is against my religion not to smoke herb," a defiant Peter Tosh declared to me a quarter-century ago. Today, Tosh is still recognized as one of the world's foremost champions of the legalization of Jah Holy Weed, a most appropriate choice as the latest member of the HIGH TIMES Counterculture Hall of Fame. "For when I can't get no herb," the Bush Doctor explained, "I am uncomfortable, seen? 'Cause herb is the healing of the nation."

Tosh always smoked publicly—on the streets of New York City, where he maintained an apartment; on airplane flights back in the day, when smoking was still permitted; and onstage at shows like the tension-filled One Love Peace Concert, when he defiantly blew spliff smoke in the faces of Jamaica's corrupt constabulary and the island's chief political leaders. For the latter, he was brutally beaten and left for dead in a jail cell, a few months after the Peace Concert propelled him onto the front pages of the newspapers, which excoriated him for his allegedly insolent and lewd behavior. "It was only because I knew how to roll my eyes up in my head and pretend that I was dead that dem [cops] stop beating me," he said later.

However, that 1978 attack wasn't the first time he'd been attacked without cause by the men he referred to, in his inimitably deconstructive way, as the "po-lice." His prophetic song, "Mark of the Beast," composed in 1972, presaged an invasion of his home by the forces of what he termed a "downpressive politrickal shitstem." In an early-'80s interview with me, he detailed the near-fatal incident: "I just came from the country with some fresh herb and I was inside my house, testing out this good herb, seen? ... 'Twas very exotic, seen? Well, feeling the ingredients moving through me start to create inspiration. And the inspiration that came up, it was I suppose a *prophetic* inspiration. I was seeing between the lines in the future, which was to manifest itself in the next 15 minutes.

"[I was] writing around my table, sit around my table. There was some people keeping a party inside of the yard that I live in. And I was inside. People was outside dancing; I was inside making music. Totally locked off to what was going on outside, 'cause it's like I couldn't even hear what was going on, even though it was a party, seen? So I was there, locked off, creating music and tapping on my table like this," he explained, drumming his fingertips on a coffee table in the Sunset Marquis Hotel suite in which he was staying at the time, "creating the rhythm. I heard a shot fire. The song I was singing? 'I see the mark of the beast on their ugly faces/I see them congregating in evil places/Me know them a wicked.' Seen? Well, during that happening, I didn't even reach a second verse—I hear a shot fire, seen? When I heard that shot fire, I say, 'Wha' dat?' And my woman was inside ... and she went outside and looked, and she say it was the police.

"Well, like after I heard the shot fire, seconds later, I saw people running right out the house and through my apartment. I said, 'Wait. What kind of a thing goin' on?' because of the door there. I had a door behind me, so them couldn't run through and go through and go reach any more to the back. Well, I was there, sitting down still all the same, because I did not intend to break the communication with the inspiration, seen? So I was there, yunno, in permanent communication with the inspiration, and here comes a guy

coming inside, came through my door, come inside. See, I with my spliff like this—this same length, not longer than [two inches]. And he come and say, 'Wha' dat, a ganja that you have deh?' Him say 'ganja'; me say, 'Ganja is a bird in Australia.' [Peter also claimed that marijuana was a girl in Cuba.] He don't know that. Him say, 'Is wha' dat?' Me say, 'Herb!' Him say mek him see it, give it to him. He smelled it. Him say, 'A ganja, man,' seen? Me tek it back from him, say, 'Give me mi herb, mon. Give I mi spliff.'

"Well, at that time is a guy in plain clothes, which could be a robber, seen? Just look ordinary, [like] just coming out of a rum bar. Well, he came—after I'm well high, I took up mi spliff from him ... I eased it out of his hand, said: 'No, no, you cyan do that. A mi house dis.' And I eased it out of his hand ... And after doing that, he went outside. [I] realized that he took out his gun first. ... So him went outside, call him friends and say, 'A one criminal inside, yah.' Seen? Well, his friends, dem was about six a dem. Two a dem came within and dragged me outside. Well, when they dragged me outside, two held onto this hand, and two held onto this hand, and the one who is the leader for that execution squad, he took his .38 out of his waist and started

punch me in the abdominal. With a loaded .38, seen? Till him tired. Him put it back in his waist and use him fist same place. Till him tired ... Him call fe a rifle and tek rifle from his friend. And

meanwhile, them was holding me like this, like Jesus on the cross, seen? He slammed to my ribs—lower vertebrae. One was dislocated, seen? All right. Give back the guy the rifle; he went behind my house, took a piece of stick that catch the clothesline outside, break off the bottom, which is the biggest part, and came back while them was holding me like this—BOOF!! to my forehead. Seven stitches, seen?

"So I was prophetically looking in the future, which was to manifest itself in the next minutes ... [But the attack that followed the Peace Concert in 1978] was more than what happen in 1972. That time was seven; this time is 10! They locked me in a room and tried to fracture my skull."

Despite these horrific experiences, there was always a "jollification" side to the Mystic Man as well. "Peter make you laugh for a million different reasons," said Bunny Wailer, Tosh's former partner in the Wailers, speaking to me and Leroy Jodie Pierson in Kingston in 1991 while we were working on Bunny's now-abandoned autobiography. "Peter love [to] touch girls. You know, that's a serious kind of joke still. You see Peter touch a girl going down the road with her husband, and gazes in her eyes in a split second that she almost broke her toe, because this tall, dark and handsome man touches her and gazes, that she almost slips." They started to call him Peter *Touch*, and that appellation actually appears on many of his singles, both in Jamaica and the UK.

Tosh delighted in finding the hidden meanings of the "foreign" English language that had been forced upon the slaves torn from the bosom of Mama Africa over the past 400 years. He told me in 1983 that he knew of innumerable plots on his life and that he was wary of his so-called friends. Pulling the word apart, he said: "*Fry* means to bring heat, and *end* is to eliminate, so be careful of your friends, 'cause they will *fry* you in the *end*." And it was a supposed "friend" who would murder Peter four years later.

'When I can't get no herb, I am uncomfortable.'



Peter Tosh circa 1980.



Peter called his manager his “damager,” his producer a “reducer,” and Queen Elizabeth—who he believed was the Whore of Babylon that the Bible warned against—was always referred to contemptuously as “Queen ‘Ere-lies-a-bitch.” He also railed against the “Crime Minister who shits in the House of Represent-a-thief,” and declared all governments on the face of the earth to be illegal: “Only Jah Law I man support.”

His late publicist, Charlie Comer, recalled an incident that happened while Peter was staying in a hotel on tour (I believe in New York City). He went out for lunch, and when he got back to his room, he couldn’t find his stash. So he called the police to report a robbery. Charlie had to rush down to the lobby to head them off.

It was Charlie—a bulbous-nosed, florid-faced Liverpool Irishman who was a publicist at various times for Mick Jagger, John Lennon, Bob Marley, the Chieftains and Stevie Ray Vaughan—who called me one afternoon in September 1979. “Peter’s out there in LA, and he needs some herb,” he said. “Can you help him?”

Well, as it turned out, I was in a rather fortuitous position at the time, having just returned from my friend Ryan’s place in the Santa Cruz mountains of Northern Collie-for-Nyah. Ryan had had a spectacular growing success that year, with several of his plants topping 14 to 16 feet, and he’d gifted me with two gigantic colas. Each was nearly two feet long and round as a grapefruit, so my wife Mary and I decided to gift-wrap one of them and present it to the Bush Doctor. Mary found some colorful paper and tied it all together with red, gold and green ribbons. It seemed nearly as long as a cricket bat.

We arrived at the Sunset Marquis in Hollywood, where Peter, Bob and other reggae stars often stayed in the early days of the music’s penetration of America, and knocked on his door. He opened it slightly, spotted our lengthy package immediately and demanded, “A wha’ dat?”

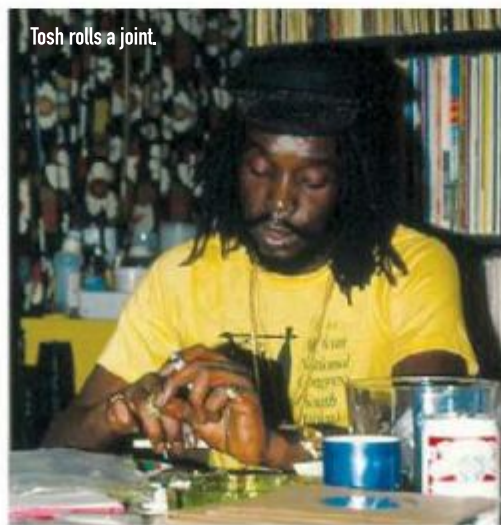
“It’s a gift to you, Peter, on behalf of all the herb smokers in Southern California,” I answered. He reached through the crack in the door and tore a bit of the paper away, instantly recognizing the contents. Back went the bolt and he pulled us inside quickly, slamming the door behind us and then relocking it. Anxiously, he tore off the paper and began to inspect the giant ganja top, peering down the end of it like a gun barrel, pinching off a piece and smelling it apprehensively, balancing it in his two large hands. Then he turned to us and said, “Cho! Take a whole lot more than this to get *my* propeller spin.”

But he didn’t give it back.

In an interview with *Music Times* magazine in 1987, shortly before he was assassinated, Peter spoke at length on the history of herb. “Gang-jah,” he averred, is “the name the shitstem give to the herb—gang-Jah—but they couldn’t spell it so they say ‘ganja.’ Prosecution for the herb is unconstitutional and illegitimate. It is the violation of my constitutional rights under certain declarations which the United Nations give me, but Jamaica is a place that knows nothing about human rights—it was not taught in schools, so people know nothing about their rights, they are so dumb. It was South Africa in 1925 and Egypt that sanction

that the herb be placed on the narcotic list and that’s when the fight against her started.

“A botanical agent cannot be classified a drug, I am a botanologist. I received an award from the University of Houston for my knowledge and study of the herbs. Herb is being used to cure mad people in places like London and New York. In California, it is used to ease the pains of AIDS sufferers. No cure for that—that’s a curse. Herb is for the use of man. Two Jamaican doctors found out that the herb is a cure for the eye disease glaucoma. So the whole world knows the medicinal value of the herb. It just a spiritual warfare; it’s intentionally laid down by pirate Christief Combustus and his friend Mark O



Tosh rolls a joint.

‘The whole world knows the medicinal value of herb.’

Polio. This shitstem is the continuation of the same administration. They just want to send the fools a little further, man. I don’t take cocaine and those shit. Coke choke. I see no one benefit from those shit. Those shit are made intentionally, it’s like some guy go into the laboratory and say, ‘Let’s make a drug that can turn those niggers into a monkey.’ But you know what is a pity? So many of you are easy victims of the shitstem.”

In a 1979 interview with *Oui* magazine, Peter revealed his favorite types of herb. “Thai stick not bad. And the Colombian now, the quality varies, but the other day I get a draw of Colombian in Milwaukee. *Exclusive!* And Milwaukee is a place where you don’t get herb, but I get herb. Yeah, mon. Great draw! Was a brother brought it for me. And I also like a thing called Maui Wowie. [In Jamaica I look for] sinsemilla. Herb called Lambsbread and Kingsbread and more; a little thing dem call Goatshit. The best herb I find is called Short Day. Yes I. And also Long Day. Long Day produce some long buds. Short Day herb produce some little bumps on the sticks, and each little bump will blow your head off!

“Nine out of 10 people in Jamaica smoke herb. Everyone an outlaw,” he continued in the interview. Reminded that the UN maintains the anti-cannabis statutes, Peter exploded: “United Nations bullshit! Me no wanna hear that argument there. Who are them who take counsel against I & I, to see that I & I are separated from I & I culture? He who created the earth created herb for the use of man, seen? If herb was growing in the blood-claat United Nations, you think Jamaica could go tell

United Nations what to do? So how come the bumba ras claat United Nations dare to come and tell us what to do? Fuck the United Nations! My Father grow herb, and if my Father know what is right, He would have made herb growing in the United blood-claat Nations, not just in Jamaica for I & I who praise Him continually.”

“Sometimes he got us nervous about his attitude of dealing with herb as if it was cigarette, like tobacco,” says Bunny. “Because he said that the freedom that he should have is like the freedom that a man should have to smoke a cigarette that would kill him later on, give him cancer ... or the priest that burns his frankincense and myrrh.”

Tosh’s detestation of illegal “laws,” especially those prohibiting herb, was heightened by the people who made them—mostly self-proclaimed “Christians” who, he believed, were preaching a false God, one created by people like King James, who, he claimed, “did not edit the Bible for the benefit of the black man.” As Tosh told *Music Times*: “Rastafari is the reality of the fantasy that the Jesuit philosophers paint in these times to sell the illusion of who Christ really is, so as to keep the black man sick, lost in illusions and fantasies, seeking to find the reality which is himself.”

The Canadian actor Nicholas Campbell, who directed *Red X: Stepping Razor*, the award-winning 1992 documentary about Tosh, recalled “Mikey Robinson, who was shot alongside Peter, telling us about one time when he went to Peter’s house, and he was quite surprised to see a picture of a white Jesus hanging on Peter’s wall. So he goes up to it and it looks kind of strange, and suddenly a dart flies by and sticks in Jesus’ face! And it’s Peter with an African blow gun, using Jesus’ face as a target.”

In the days before he was shot, Peter spoke of reincarnation; he actually believed that he’d been born thousands of times and would be born again. “Look for me, I will be back—and it will be easy to know when I am coming, because there will be earthquake, lightning and thunder and nuff rain. When you see that sign, you know I am coming, seen?”

The herbal anthems that Tosh composed, especially “Legalize It” and “Bush Doctor,” continue to be standards in the repertoire of reggae bands around the globe. “I’m not ashamed of the songs I sing,” Peter said. “It’s still a divine inspiration. I’m living in a world of ignorance, where everything that is righteous is condemned, seen? And everything that is wrongteous is elevated, seen? So, because I know that, I know that everything that is legal is illegal, and everything that is wrong is right! And that’s the shitstem.”

Were Peter alive today, he would rejoice in the continuing decriminalization of herb in places like California and Amsterdam. But he would never be truly satisfied until it was completely free of regulation, to be used as a holy Rasta sacrament for “headucation” and not just jollification, as one danced to Jah music, elevating his mind to meet his maker. ✨

Roger Steffens is the co-author of Roger Steffens and Peter Simon’s Reggae Scrapbook (Palace Press), which recently won ForeWard magazine’s Silver Medal for Best Music Book of 2007. Roger can be reached at rasrajah@aol.com, and he maintains a website at reggaesupersite.com.

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Our correspondents from around the world weigh in on this year's bumper crop of buds. Take a tour of the best pot on the planet with our esteemed team of cannabis researchers, who have scoured the globe in search of great ganja.

GLOBAL HARVEST R



Ganja grows wild throughout Nepal.



NEPAL

These days, the horticulture of cannabis is so completely under the control of humans that the plant tends to lead an unnatural life cycle and rarely has the chance to grow freely in the wild. It is typically grown indoors, where the males are killed and the females are cut down in their prime—just before having the chance to reproduce. In the Western world, where cannabis is outlawed and its value makes the plant highly coveted, the chance to grow it in the wild is next to impossible.

There is, however, one area of the world where cannabis does grow abundantly in the wild, unabated and unrestricted. Throughout the Himalayas, Northern India, Nepal, and

Southern China, cannabis is indigenous. In fact, cannabis seeds have been found in Chinese tombs dating from 4000 BCE, and even the popular Rastafarian term for pot—“ganja”—is actually a Sanskrit word. (In Nepal, it’s pronounced more like “gancha.”)

The Annapurna Circuit is a trail that circles a portion of the Himalayas, slicing and dicing through gorges, ravines and rivers. Narrow tracks that have travelers clinging to the rock walls almost by their fingernails are the only way into these hidden valleys, which for centuries have offered an unassailable refuge for those who sought to hide away from the world. The entire trek takes about 20 days of hiking, and the circuit climbs to a peak of just over 17,700 feet. The trail leads through approximately four different climates, from tropical to semi-tropical, then through permafrost in the high altitudes, and finally to desert.

After the first day on the trail, there are no longer any roads, electricity or running water. All supplies must be carried in either by mule or human porter. The whole area is so remote and idyllic, so astonishingly natural, that you get the feeling this must be the way the world was before humans arrived.

On the second day of the trek, my guide pointed out a small field of baby cannabis on the side of the trail. (I’m sure he was laughing and saying to himself, “Gets ‘em every time!”) I ran down to take a few pics, and I couldn’t believe that there were so many plants just growing there out in the open. After a short while, when I started to look for it, I’d see it everywhere: in small fields in bunches, interspersed with other plants and weeds, between the cracks in the trail, even in piles of garbage. All of which makes Annapurna a pot smoker’s Eden, a Shangri-la in all its natural glory.

At the semi-tropical level, marijuana grows as abundantly as dandelions do in North America, and it’s regarded in much the same way—i.e., just another weed. It’s nice to know that there are some places on Earth where we haven’t unjustly outlawed a plant that Mother Nature so rightly put here. Although, technically, cannabis is illegal in Nepal, you’d never know it: In 2000, the country reportedly exported 300 million kilos.

For pot seekers, there are really only two times of the year worth visiting: spring and fall. The fall is more crowded with tourists, but the ganja is fully mature. In the spring, it’s young but more abundant, as it hasn’t been pruned by all the trekkers. The summer, of course, is monsoon season—not a great time to visit. On the other hand, you can find smokable weed throughout the year.—Ganja Guru

GANJA GURU

REPORT 2008

GLOBAL HARVEST REPORT 2008

AUSTRALIA

With its long, hot summers, huge expanses of terrain and a deep-seeded love of marijuana, Australia's a perfect country for outdoor cultivation. Many farms down here will grow smaller cannabis crops—somewhere between 25 to 40 plants, although their average height is generally over 3 meters (10 feet) tall!

The average outdoor temp during the growing season, which runs from September to April (remember, the seasons here are the opposite of those in North America and Europe), is approximately 23°C (74°F) in the southeastern states. Most growers will plant their seeds in the more densely populated coastal regions, as this is where the temperatures stay most moderate. Indoor growing is a bit more prevalent in the cities, however, because much of the outdoor farmland around here is rugged bush terrain.

The tradition in Australia is to put your germinated seeds into the ground on the AFL (Australian Rules Football) Grand Final Day, which takes place every year at the end of September. In Melbourne, a city known for "four seasons in an hour," fluctuating weather conditions can serve to postpone or advance the harvest, with the possibility of the big day occurring anytime from early March to early May.

The harvesting process in Australia is basically the same as everywhere



else. Australian cultivators usually hang their buds outside for a period of time throughout the day; the low humidity of the south provides an ideal drying environment. Yields vary greatly, but anywhere from 4 ounces to multiple *pounds* per plant can occur, depending on size (check out the picture—quite possibly the largest cannabis plant we've ever seen).

Due to the extremely strict quarantine regulations in Australia, no plant material can pass its borders without approval from the customs authorities. This puts a severe limit on the number of strains available; unlike in Europe and America, when purchasing a few buds in Australia, one has to settle for whatever happens to be around. Still, popular strains from the 2008 Australian harvest include White Widow, Aussie

Haze and Mullumbimby Madness.

While growing marijuana in Australia is illegal, some states (South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory) treat simple possession (under 50 grams) as a minor infraction, punishable by nothing more serious than a fine or confiscation. One big exception is Nimbin, a country town in the state of New South Wales, which is known, thanks to its liberal, cannabis-friendly attitude, as a haven for pot lovers everywhere. The "Amsterdam of Australia" has a wide variety of strains easily available, and once a year it hosts the Mardi Grass at the beginning of May—just after harvest time, of course!—**Conrad MacGilligan**



This one plant of Reeferman's Blueberry x G-13 Haze yielded 7 pounds and 10 ounces in the Australian sunshine.

Massive and mythical outdoor gardens of almost pure sativa plants grow in the African nation of Malawi.



MALAWI

Malawi is a very special African country. It's tourist-friendly, to a certain extent—backpackers will love it, and five-star tourists will have few complaints. It's also quite pot-friendly: Cops are very rare, and they're more interested in small donations than in busting potheads.

Stretching along one of the longest lakes of the continent, Malawi is divided into the tourist-driven south and the more rural north, where most of the action lies. The country is home to very large production fields of high-grade pot, known the world over for its psychedelic, uplifting high and spicy but fruity aroma.

Though there are two types of Malawi weed known on the international markets (Malawi Gold and Malawi Black), their differentiation isn't really strain-related—in- stead, it depends on the fermentation process and the method of storage and transportation. Slightly fermented bud (Malawi Gold) stays golden in color; fully fermented bud (Malawi Black) is pressed inside corncobs for months, which renders it dark, almost black, in color.

In reality, there's just one local landrace in Malawi with six or seven different phenotypes, ranging from the fruity (pineapple and mango are the predominant smells) to the woody (incense-like and very deep). The plant structure changes as well, from bushy to less branchy, but these are all very tall, very stretchy, almost pure *sativas*.

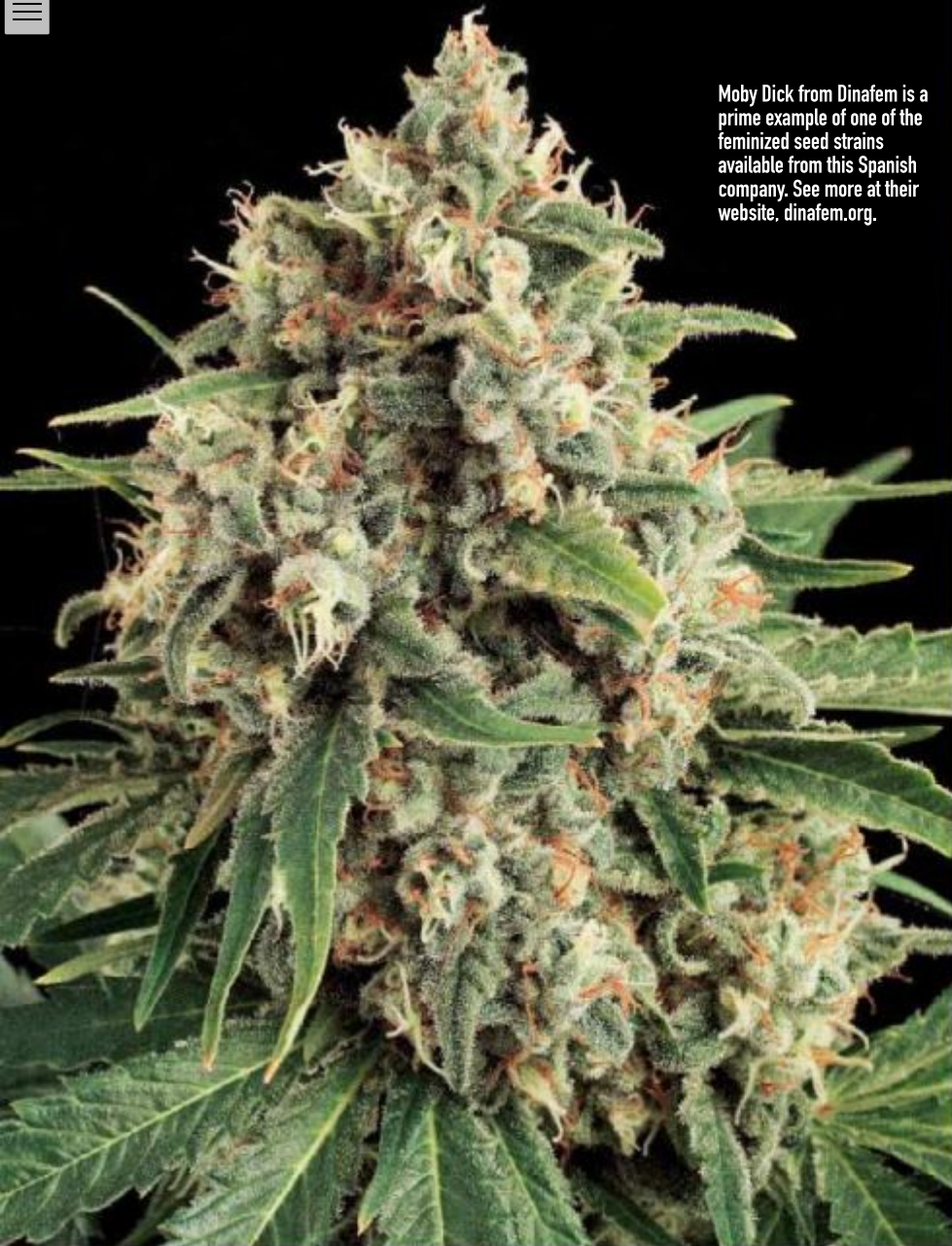


The locals use cannabis for medicinal purposes more than as a recreational drug. But the relatively safe situation and cheap prices are attracting tourists from South Africa, Europe, Australia and more recently, even the US.

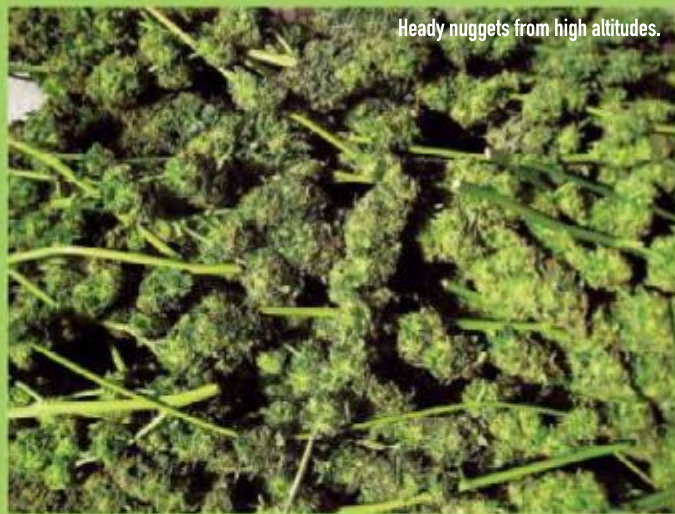


The origin of the Malawi genetics dates back to the first settlers from Congo and Arab traders from Egypt crossing the continent on their way south; both groups brought seeds with them. We can safely speak of a Malawi landrace now, however, as the in-breeding process has been going for quite a few centuries—if not for over a thousand years.

The locals use cannabis for medicinal purposes more than as a recreational drug. But the relatively safe situation and cheap prices are attracting more and more pot tourists from South Africa, Europe, Australia and, more recently, even the US. Price per ounce varies according to place, quality and time of year; good-quality pot ranges from \$3 to \$10 an ounce. But marijuana isn't the only attraction here: There's also unspoiled nature in abundance, unique diving in freshwaters, hiking, fishing, paragliding and plenty more to do in between rolling and smoking.—Franco (Green House Seed Co.)



Moby Dick from Dinafem is a prime example of one of the feminized seed strains available from this Spanish company. See more at their website, dinafem.org.



Heady nuggets from high altitudes.

COLORADO

With 84 percent of the counties in Colorado having at least one or more registered medical patients, it's no surprise that this state made our global harvest report. On June 1, 2001, the Colorado Department of Public Health began accepting applications for medical-marijuana cards. Since then, the state has granted a little over 3,000 people the right to harvest three beautiful plants.



Before medical marijuana was legalized back in 2001, Colorado was a place where you could always count on having a piece of heady nugget handed to you at a party or concert. Since the state is located in the middle of the country, you will find many of the popular strains from either coast. Everything from Sour Diesel and Strawberry Cough to Grapefruit and Purple Kush is available here: "Variety" is the best word to describe the pot scene in Colorado. Some of the more popular strains are Lamb's Breath and Cough (Northern Lights #5 x Haze). You can find both of these strains just about anywhere you go here, along with good old Northern Lights.

Weather and population conditions make growing outdoors in Colorado more difficult, but the indoor scene can compete with anything around. The mountains seem to be the only place to really offer the refuge to grow a large outdoor garden—but with mountain growing comes cooler, drier weather that creates the perfect conditions for powdery mildew to form. And at these altitudes, for almost three-quarters of the season, frost has the ability to form, which can ruin any crop in days.

Even so, no matter the time of the year, there's probably a phenomenal indoor harvest just around the corner, which means there's an excellent chance you'll find someone in Colorado to hook you up with some good smoke. From the major metropolitan areas all the way up to the little resort towns in the mountains, people are holding in CO.—**Big Croppa**



Rocky Mountain High.

SPAIN

The proliferation of new seed companies has changed the cannabis landscape of the entire Iberian Peninsula. Today there are over 20 different companies, with more sprouting up every year. Dinafem and Eva Seeds (all feminized), Delicatessen Seeds, Good House Seeds, Medical Seeds, Pyramid Seeds, Sweet Seeds and World of Seeds are among the best known. Most of these companies have a website; just type their name into Google.



According to Ms. Dinafem, "Clones are sometimes difficult to locate, and many growers find they are too much trouble and prefer feminized seeds, which are legal." This is the reason the Spanish market is now dominated by feminized seeds, just as it is in the rest of Europe. Growers here grow mainly for their own consumption, so feminized seeds work perfectly for them.

Every year, more pot is planted in Spain. It's common to see plants growing on balconies; rural gardens tended by extended families are commonplace as well, especially in Catalunya and the Basque Country. In fact, marijuana is becoming more popular than Moroccan hash—something I never thought I'd see happen.

High temperatures and little rainfall have made this growing season difficult for indoor and outdoor growers alike. The good news is that the autumn weather was relatively dry in much of the country, and the longer-flowering *sativa* crops have had plenty of time to mature. However, wet weather was the norm in the Pyrenees Mountains, the Basque Country and all along the Cantabrian Coast, which borders the Atlantic Ocean. Plus a persistent mold similar to powdery mildew has plagued several northern regions, diminishing harvests and leaving many growers scratching their heads.

Despite the heat, lack of rain and mold problems, however, this has been an excellent year overall for growing. Spanish growers are harvesting more than ever—but no matter how much cannabis is grown, we always manage to smoke more than we harvest!—**Jorge Cervantes:**

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Long, narrow leaves are characteristic of this *sativa*-dominant strain. Today, Mexico is home to a growing industry of connoisseur cannabis.

MEXICO

These days, American and Canadian strains—Love Potion, Kush, Blueberry and the Purps—are all very big in Mexico. Gone are the days of smoking only Popo Blue, Punta Rojo, Acapulco Gold, etc.; now, you can find pretty much anything that's won a HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup.

Mexico is taking over where British Columbia left off. Thanks to Canadian, Colombian and US influences, the quality of Mexican weed has improved significantly in recent years. Much of it is being grown in greenhouses or in controlled outdoor gardens. Most small and midsize growers have no affiliations with organized crime until they have to sell their crop; the Mexican mafias still provide the only wholesale outlet with ready cash in hand.

Oaxaca is currently developing a name for its sieved hash, though it's of lower quality than you might find in central Mexico or the country's new hash capital—Culiacán, Sinaloa. Those in the know can find top-quality ice hash in this Mexican-mafia-controlled capital for around \$300 US per 100 grams.

Small gardens, both indoors and out, are more common in Mexico these days as well. Growers with small connoisseur plots are producing more for their own personal pleasure rather than export. Proximity to the US hydroponic stores as well as a sprinkling of big-box stores—Home Depot, Costco, Wal-Mart, etc.—make it easy to find all the supplies necessary to grow a great crop. As a result, the general rule of thumb is that Mexican marijuana increases in quality the closer you get to the US border.

More Mexicans are smoking pot today than ever before. The old macho stereotypes are softening as the country modernizes, and as a result the taboo against marijuana is fading into the past. Young people are the ones breaking with tradition—in fact, tourist stores even carry paraphernalia now, and on a recent trip across the Tijuana border, a Mexican friend bought a bong from a street vendor!

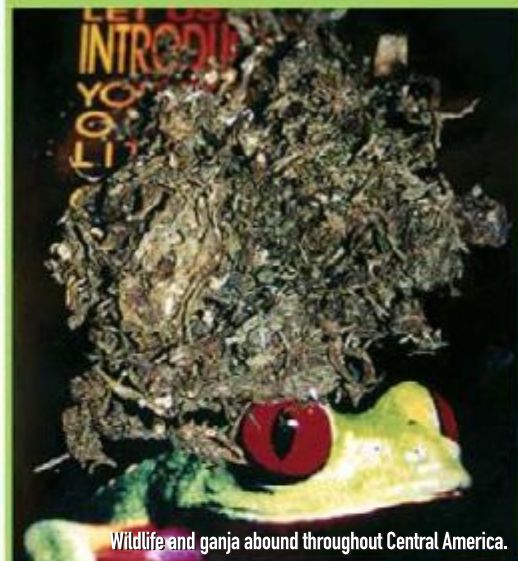
Top-quality strains sell for about \$2,000 a pound, but don't hold your breath before inhaling: You still need an amigo to find a good deal. And novices should be careful, because *la mordida* ("the bite" or bribe expected by police) is one part of the culture that hasn't changed. —Jorge Cervantes



This Mexican bud is the result of four growing seasons under the semi-tropical sunlight. Each new crop is more acclimated than the last.



The general rule of thumb is that Mexican marijuana increases in quality the closer you get to the US border.



COSTA RICA

This has been a particularly wet growing season for local ganja farmers in Costa Rica—which means great smuggling weather for all the modern-day pirates out on the high seas, of course, but that's another story ...

Meanwhile, up in the Talamanca Mountain range, which runs the length of Costa Rica from Nicaragua in the north to Panama in the south, the indigenous population continues to produce a consistent (but seedy) crop that increases in quality every year. All-natural growing techniques, little police enforcement on tribal lands and cooperative farming within the local community means extremely reasonable prices for budget travelers in the area interested in a fat sack of local, organic *sativa*.

Costa Rica's Caribbean coast also boasts a very large community of Jamaican immigrants, creating a unique blend of cultures not found in other parts of the country. Several times per year, a special Jamaican brick of very high quality arrives, smelling like hash and extremely sticky with resin. Like most imports, the Jamaican can be a little expensive at \$200 an ounce, but you get what you pay for, and these red-haired buds are extremely prized by Jamaican descendants because they were grown in the soil of the motherland.

I even feel this spirit myself when I partake in the magic of Jamaica.

On the Colombian front, pressed bricks arrive frequently from the south. Various grades, from semi-green to yellow-gold, are priced accordingly, with most compressed varieties going for around \$80 an ounce.

American-style chronic-grown indoors even in paradise—is another option, but its availability is limited, and the price remains prohibitive to all but the wealthiest gringos.

As for the police down here, they tend to look the other way for those holding small quantities of marijuana, but if they get a bug up their ass, confiscation or a ticket is the norm for possession of up to an ounce. Anything above that can get a little complicated—unless you know how to grease the palms of the local authorities.

But that's another lesson for another day ... —Captain Zero



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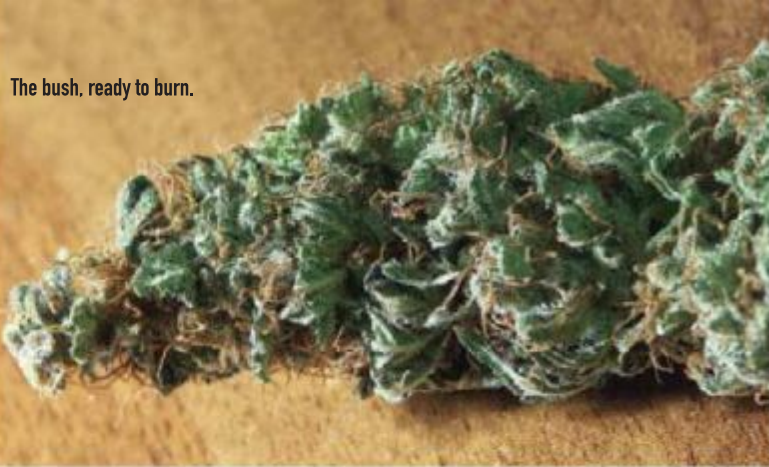


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Almost all the rest of the equipment you need can be found in the usual Ace, Ikea or Home Depot monster stores. Once again, pay by cash only and buy all your stuff in different places. Try to avoid small three-person shops!

Once you're properly set up, a regular growbox in your cupboard can handle all of your needs for a lengthy period. A wide variety of strains can be grown in your safe, well-hidden, little piece of heaven. I like the feminized Mazar from Dutch Passion: It's strong and it smells amazing. It's a true Cannabis Cup winner, and it gave me exactly the right mix of high and stone.

ISRAEL

Growing in Israel has some unique and challenging features: high humidity, high temperatures, a pH of 8.0 with 490 ppm water (my personal nightmare), and a very compact layout when it comes to housing (Israel is a small country). If you're growing indoors, the humidity level and temperature can be handled by an air conditioner, and the water can be ordered from a water-bar or cleaned by a wide spectrum of filters.

The compact living, on the other hand, entails a high security risk. You should avoid any leakage of sound, light and smell (thanks to the HIGH TIMES cultivation team for "The Department of Growroom Security"). Be creative about flood prevention (pallets, backup systems), and avoid a significant rise in electricity usage (by changing all your regular bulbs to energy-saving ones, for example).

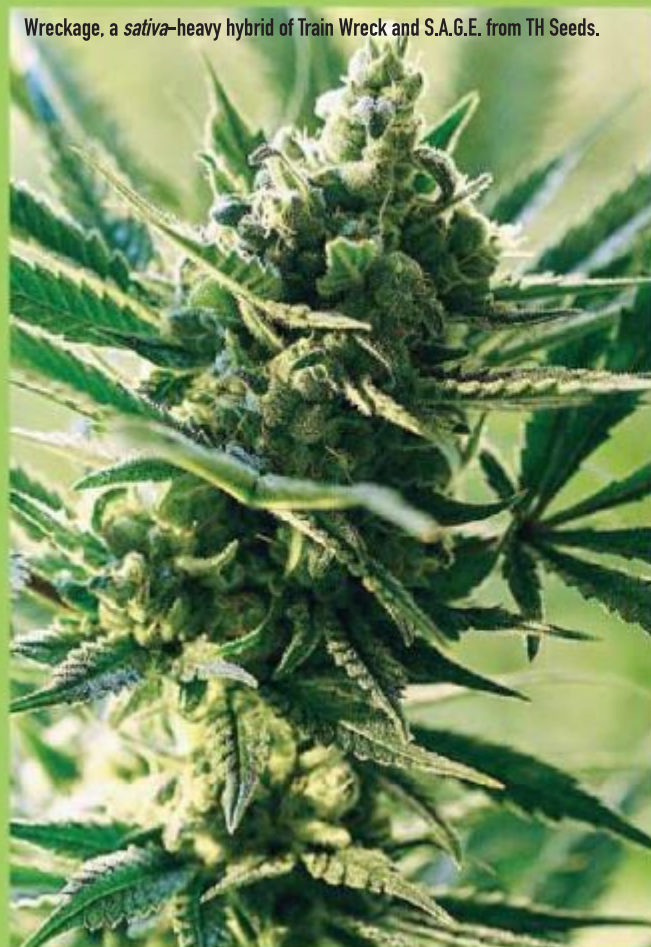
But how do you explain that huge bag of soil or that DWC container to your neighbors? Try bringing in the soil together with a few pots of ficus or some other houseplant, and your hydro container in with the washing powder, etc.

And don't forget to use good nutrients. I like the products from Hesi and GHE, but you may prefer something else. Find a good hydroponics shop (these can be easily Googled): The salesmen are usually very discreet and helpful and can give you really great advice. And always pay in cash—you'll get a discount, and your credit card data won't be tracked there.

Just a few more things: Never tell anyone or sell anyone anything. There is no exception to this rule—period! (If you want to share with someone, you should trust that person 100 percent—99 just isn't enough). Always drop your grow garbage in a container far from your neighborhood, and never take your weed out of the house. These simple precautions will help you avoid many problems! And if you're growing in Israel, keep in mind that they don't believe in privacy here, so be sure to protect your Internet connection using VPN proxy services.

Always remember: Although Israel is very MJ-liberal, and the cops might decide to simply take your name and let you go if they catch you smoking weed, that situation can change drastically if you're caught holding a few hundred grams.

Good luck and peace to everyone!—Ltype



Wreckage, a sativa-heavy hybrid of Train Wreck and S.A.G.E. from TH Seeds.

AMSTERDAM

Well, if you haven't guessed it by now, the harvests in Amsterdam are happening in preparation for the World Series of Pot: the 2008 Cannabis Cup. Crops plucked in early to mid-October will be cured just in time for entry into the Cup, which takes place in late November.

Growers in Amsterdam, using indoor facilities, try to get their final Cup crop into the dirt no later than August 1, after a year of rigorous testing and tasty sampling. Using tents as breeding chambers, many Dutch growers create laboratory-style growrooms where they can experiment with various strains and use a wide range of techniques to create new hybrids. As far as strains go, there's no shortage of variety: This year we'll see new hybrids of Kush, Trainwreck and the various Hazes.

For many of these new crosses, Dutch breeders will use the ever-popular G-13 as a father to pollinate the most vigorous mothers and add potency to already strong lines. Others will



Barney's Farm is busy growing Red Dragon as their Sativa Cannabis Cup entry.



use backcrossing as their preferred method to bolster their favorite phenotypes, while the truly adventurous will travel far and wide to find new races of marijuana to bring back to Amsterdam for hybridization. Look for Kushadelic, a Brainstorm Haze x G-13, Wreckage and Anunnaki to be some of the latest and greatest coming out of the 2008 harvest in A'dam!—Nico Escondido

LTYPE(2); NICO ESCONDIDO (2)

HIGH TIMES
PRESENTS

NEW!

Jorge Cervantes

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1



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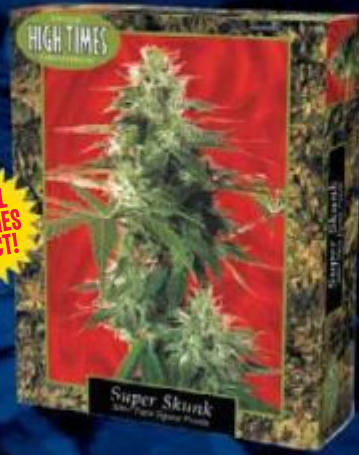
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GAMES



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(Above) Full-color cannabis puzzle comes complete with over 500 pieces. \$19.99



CHESS (Above)

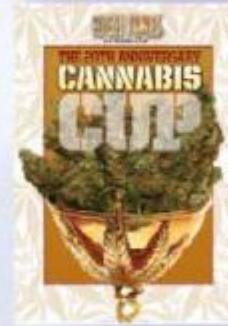
Dude, whose move is it again? The game of kings and queens enters the stoned age. This unique set includes 32 pieces, full-color playing board and instructions. \$34.99



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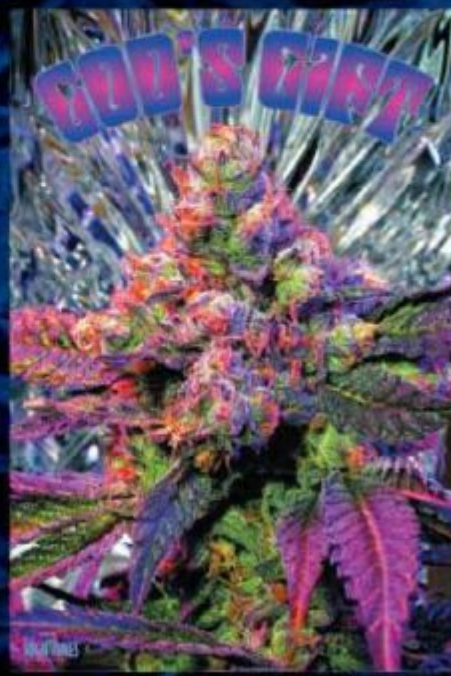
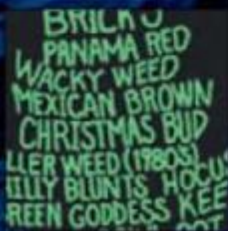
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Burn one with this scented "Mary Jane" candle. Stands 6 1/2 in. tall. \$16.99

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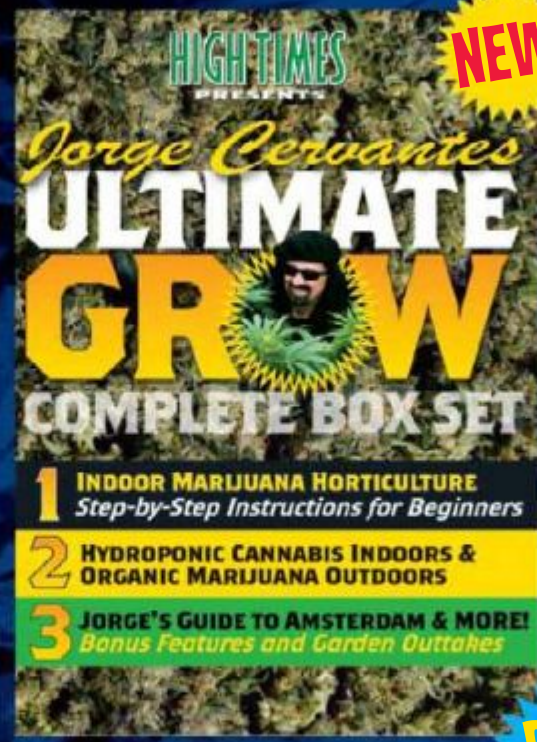
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NEW

ULTIMATE GROW COMPLETE BOX SET
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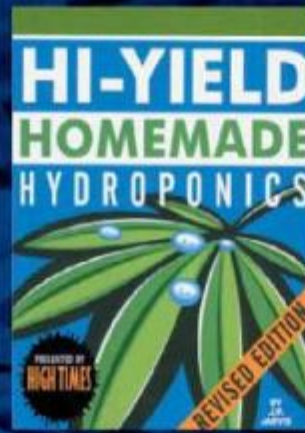
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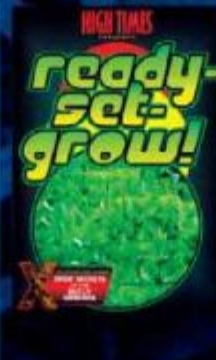
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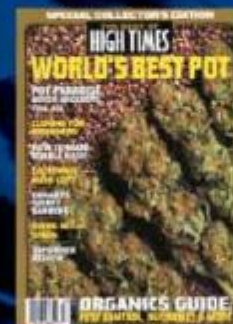
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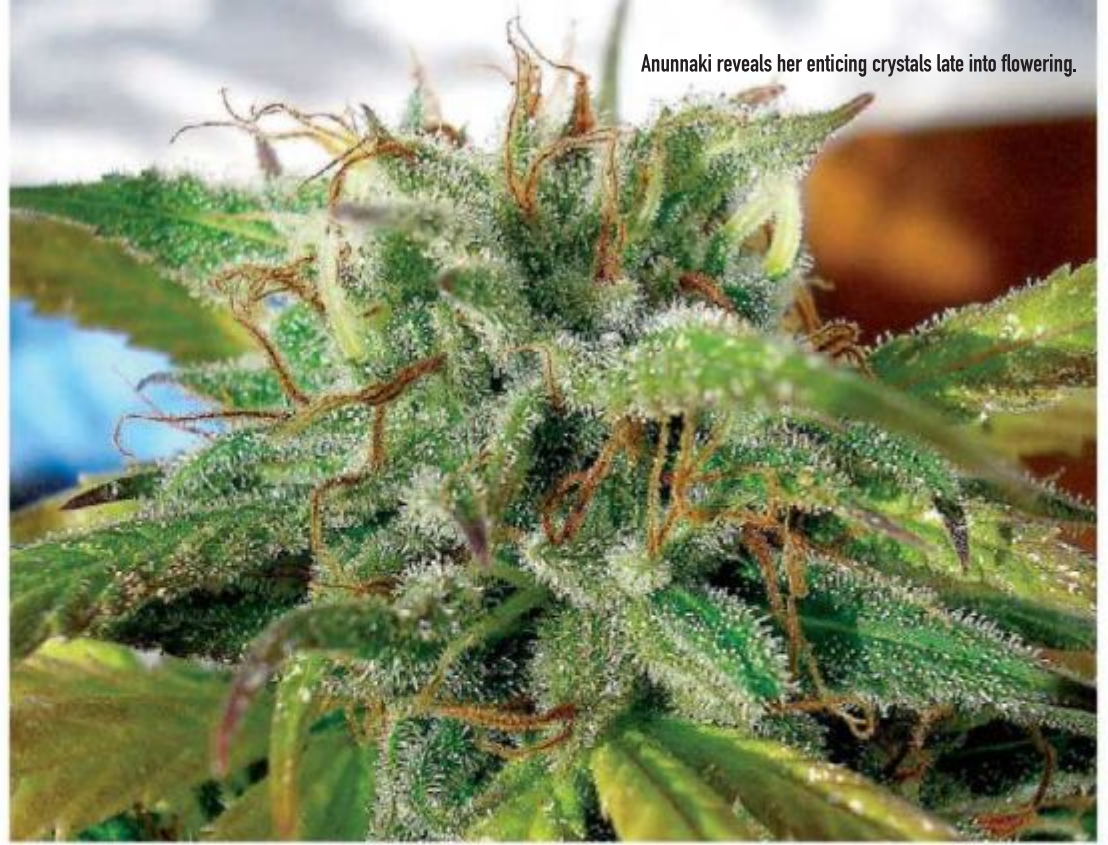
**BRAINSTORM
HAZE**



Anunnaki reveals her enticing crystals late into flowering.

Each year, we at HIGH TIMES painstakingly scour the entire planet in search of the tastiest and most potent pot to feature in our esteemed rundown of the world's finest cannabis varieties. It's a tough decision, yet certain strains always seem to shine through—making themselves known as something special for growers, pot aficionados and cannabis connoisseurs across the universe. Grow some out today!

by Danny Danko



TOP 10 STRAINS OF 2008

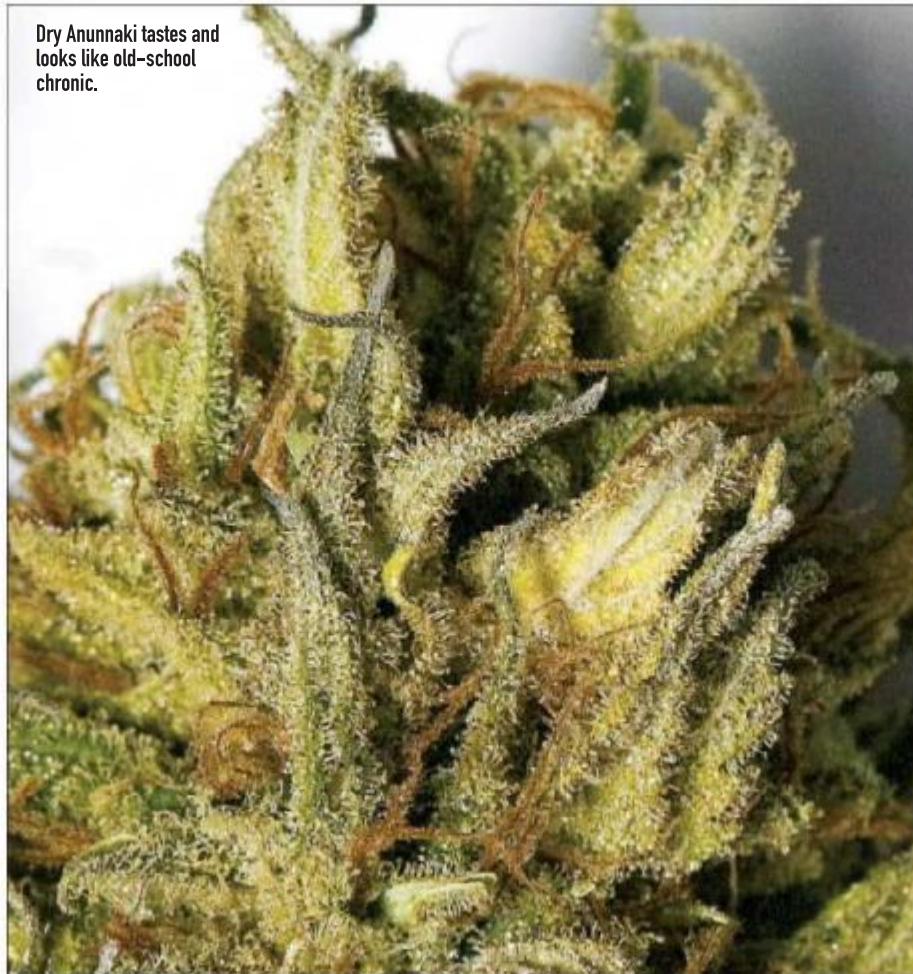
BRAINSTORM HAZE

DELTA 9 LABS

Smokers interested in heady, inspirational marijuana always seek out the longer-flowering, Hazy *sativas*, sometimes referred to colloquially as “ampheta-weed” for their uplifting qualities. Harry and Ed from Delta 9 Labs have engineered an incredible new variety called Brainstorm Haze that will make your visions clearer and let your ideas fly. A pure Thai Haze mother fertilized by their Stargazer (Sensi Star x Warlock x AK-47) produces pot that feels almost electric, with a distinct Hazy flavor and heart-racing power that makes you want to get outside and complete some tasks—a wonderful daytime weed.

Flowering time: 10 to 12 weeks
Contact: Delta 9 Labs, Delta9labs.com

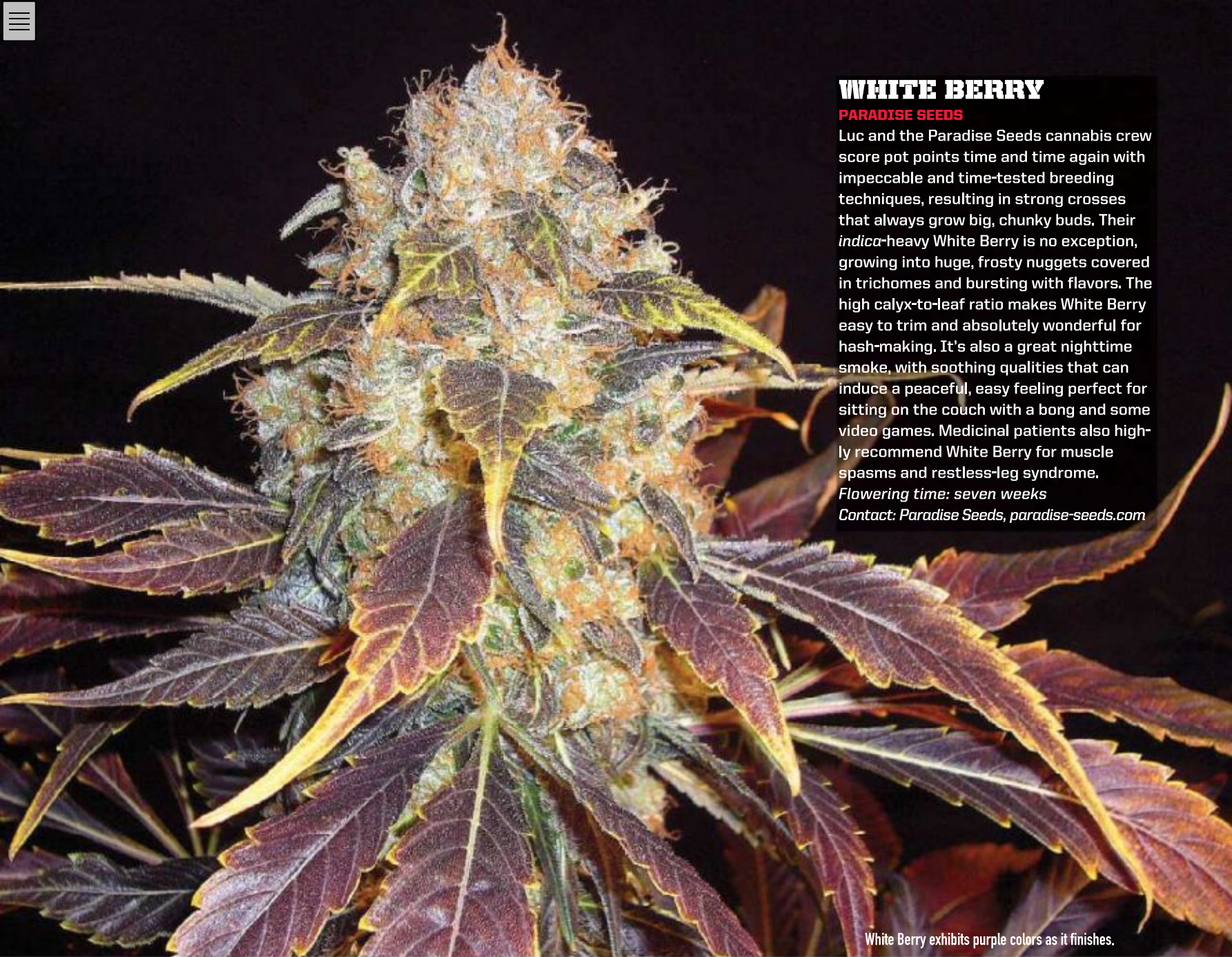
Dry Anunnaki tastes and looks like old-school chronic.



ANUNNAKI

DNA GENETICS

Having placed or won in every cannabis contest they've ever entered, Don and Aaron of DNA Genetics (get it? *D 'n' A* Genetics) continue riding high. These Southern Cali transplants to Holland utilized a California Hash Plant female fertilized by a Cannalope Haze male to make the Anunnaki. Tall and lanky, she won't be a tremendous yielder, but her subtle tastes and racy “up” high are well worth the wait. Indoors, do some severe pruning early on to avoid growing too much lumber (i.e., foot-long distances between the nodes). Let Anunnaki go the full distance and the rewards will make it self-evident that not all *sativa*-dominant strains are created equal. Flowering time: nine to 10 weeks
Contact: DNA Genetics, dna-genetics.com



WHITE BERRY

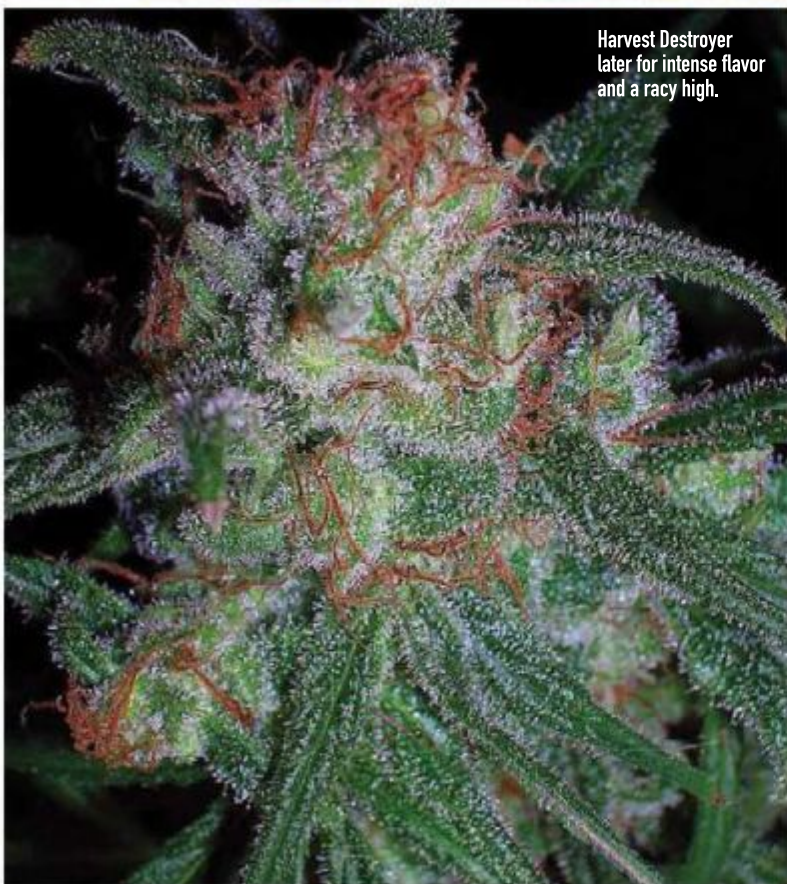
PARADISE SEEDS

Luc and the Paradise Seeds cannabis crew score pot points time and time again with impeccable and time-tested breeding techniques, resulting in strong crosses that always grow big, chunky buds. Their *indica*-heavy White Berry is no exception, growing into huge, frosty nuggets covered in trichomes and bursting with flavors. The high calyx-to-leaf ratio makes White Berry easy to trim and absolutely wonderful for hash-making. It's also a great nighttime smoke, with soothing qualities that can induce a peaceful, easy feeling perfect for sitting on the couch with a bong and some video games. Medicinal patients also highly recommend White Berry for muscle spasms and restless-leg syndrome.

Flowering time: seven weeks

Contact: Paradise Seeds, paradise-seeds.com

White Berry exhibits purple colors as it finishes.



Harvest Destroyer later for intense flavor and a racy high.

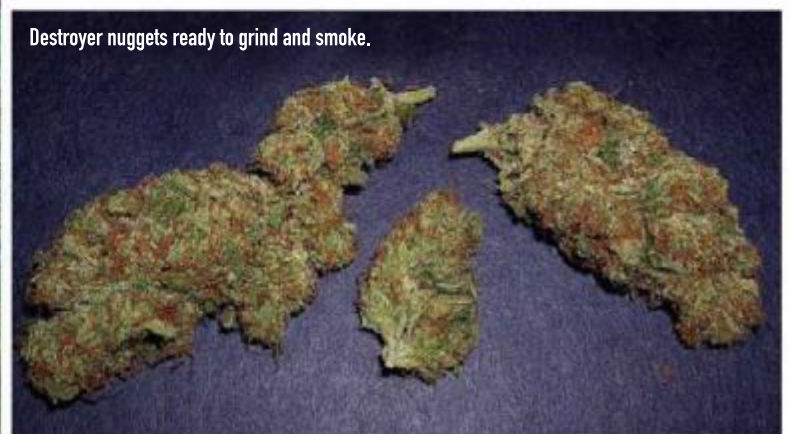
DESTROYER

CANNABIOGEN

Spain continues to make its global ganja presence known with incredible genetics geared for growers interested in high yields of the stickiest ganja. On a recent visit to Barcelona for the Spannabis Fair, we were lucky enough to try Destroyer, a powerful strain from Cannabiogen, a company long at the forefront of Spain's sensi surge. Destroyer is an almost-pure *sativa* sporting a combined Thai, Mexican and Colombian heritage, but with all of the exotic flavors and racy highs that are typical of Thai. The longer you let this plant flower, the more psychedelic the experience of smoking her becomes—so be patient. The results are guaranteed to destroy you (in a good way).

Flowering time: eight to 12 weeks

Contact: Cannabiogen Seeds, cannabiogen.com



Destroyer nuggets ready to grind and smoke.

THE WORLD'S LEADING HIGH



FEMINISED SEEDS STARTING AT 15 EURO

WATCH THE WHOLE GREEN HOUSE GROW/ DVD FOR FREE ON YOUTUBE!
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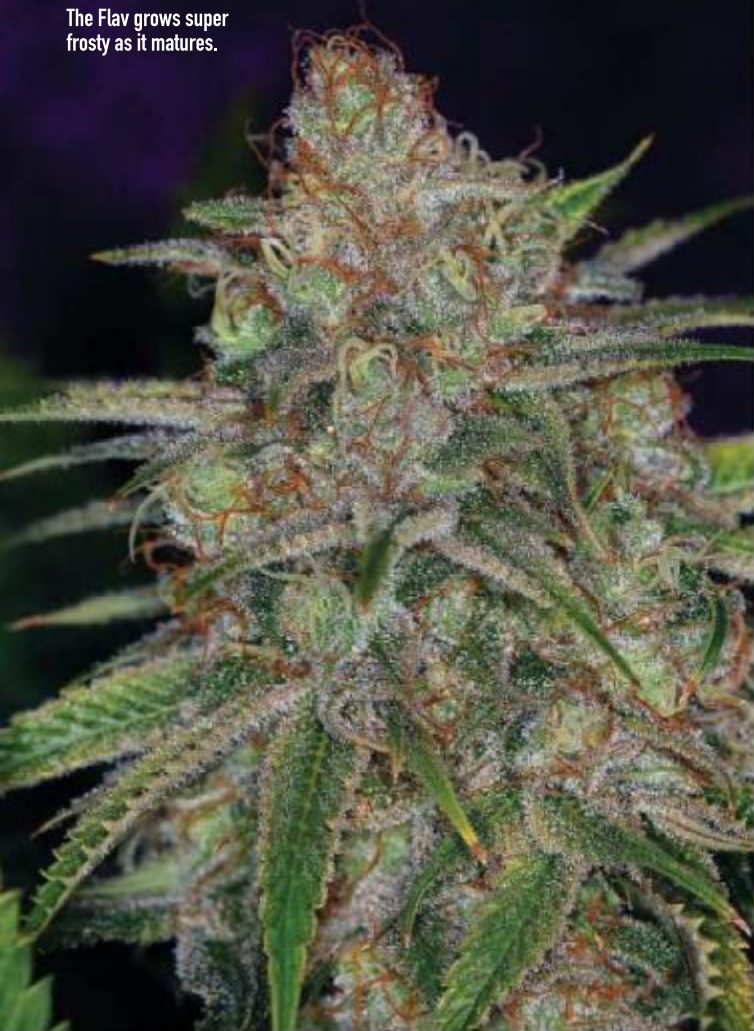
NEW STRAINS RELEASED BY THE GREEN HOUSE SEED CO.
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WWW.KINGOFCANNABIS.COM

The Flav grows super frosty as it matures.



THE FLAV

SUBCOOL SEEDS (TGA)

The Green Avengers, led by the cannabis couple Subcool and MzJill, are dedicated to their quest to provide medicinal-cannabis hybrids for patients in need. Their newest release, The Flav, combines Canada's legendary Romulan with the original Space Queen (Romulan x Cinderella 99) for a taste sensation that's hard to beat.

Anyone who's grown or smoked the Romulan knows its intense flavor and yields, and the Flav brings out the best of both. The phenotypes expressed by these seeds all show significant trichome production, resulting in sticky nuggets with that characteristic "ripe-to-rotting" fruit odor of the real Rom. Haven't we all been on the lookout for an exceptional *indica* with superior flavor to boot? Believe the hype.

Flowering time: 8-9 weeks

Contact: Subcool and TGA Seeds, breedbay.co.uk or cannaseur.com

PINEAPPLE PUNCH

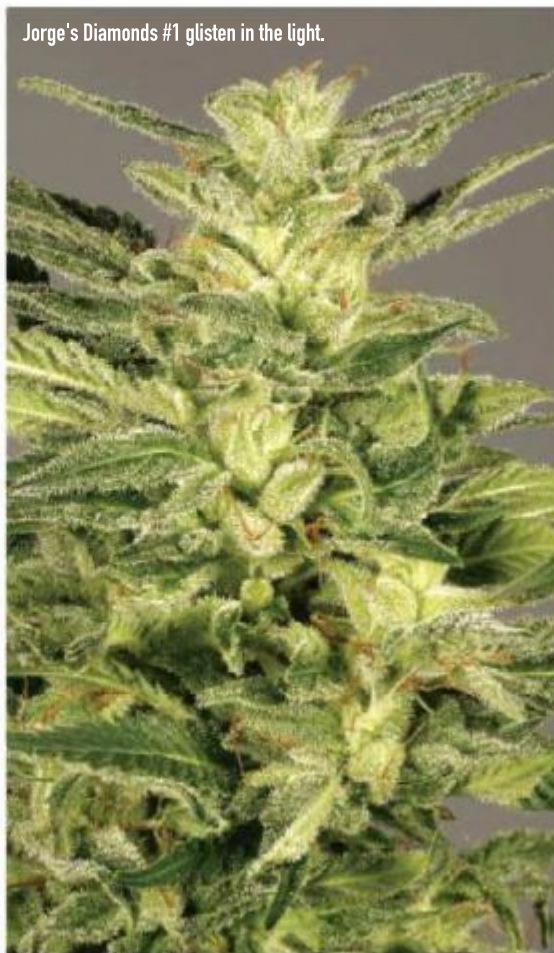
FLYING DUTCHMEN

Having always loved the incredible and unique Hawaiian cannabis varieties, and having really appreciated Flying Dutchmen's Real McCoy at Coffeeshop Media in Amsterdam, we were very excited to learn of the Pineapple Punch, a cross of a meticulously selected Real McCoy female with a sturdy Skunk #1 male. The result is a sublime and extremely cerebral taste of the tropics, complete with the unique flavors for which the best *sativa*-dominant hybrids are known. Fruity pineapple tastes and scents abound in this flavorful and potent strain, making her a pleasure to grow as well as to smoke. Careful, though—the intense *sativa* elements of Pineapple Punch can cause heart racing and even paranoia among inexperienced puffers.

Flowering time: nine to 10 weeks

Contact: Flying Dutchmen, flyingdutchmen.com

Jorge's Diamonds #1 glisten in the light.



JORGE'S DIAMONDS #1

DUTCH PASSION

In an exciting tribute to HIGH TIMES's own longtime cultivation expert, Jorge Cervantes, the breeding experts at the Dutch Passion Seed Company have created Jorge's Diamonds #1. Resinous and thought-provoking (much like the man it's named for), Jorge's Diamonds #1 will entice you with an incredible taste and aroma. This *indica*-dominant strain was selected from the 25-year-old Dutch Passion "Research Gene Pool," and its sweet, fruity smell and taste come from just the right amount of *sativa* genetics mixed in. Two legends unite to bring the world an incredible new cannabis variety whose potency is rivaled only by its amazing flavors and complex notes.

Flowering time: eight to nine weeks

Contact: Dutch Passion, dutch-passion.nl

Only available in Europe.



Pineapple Punch packs incredible flavor and an intense high.



**JORGE'S
DIAMONDS #1**







**PINEAPPLE
HIGH TIMES**





THE BLACK



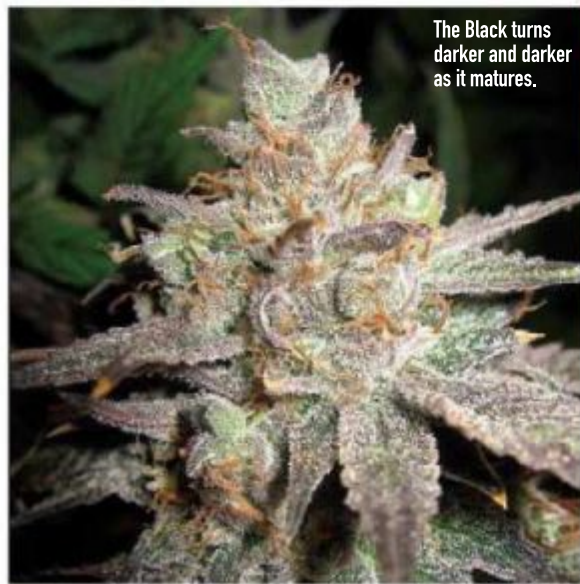
THE BLACK

BC BUD DEPOT

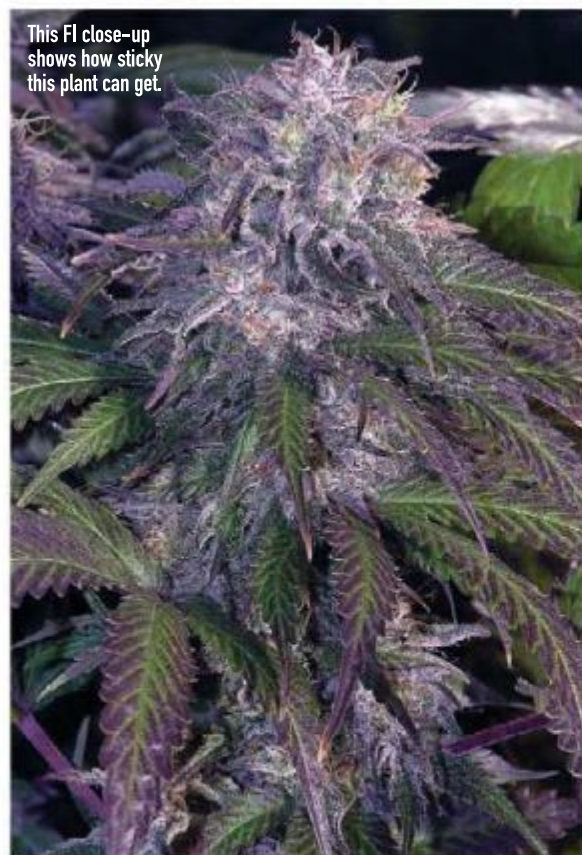
Following up their award-winning strain the Purps, the BC Bud Depot crew releases The Black—a potent and tasty *indica* variety known for her frosty, tight, dark-colored nuggets. She's a heavy feeder, with fan leaves that turn dark purple to almost black as harvest time approaches. Ninety percent *indica*, the Black is definitely a nighttime smoke—truly narcotic, with a stone that hits hard and is especially appreciated by medicinal users. Fast-flowering, and with a great yield of buds heavy on pure bag appeal, it appears that Black is the new Purple for pot connoisseurs.

Flowering time: seven to eight weeks

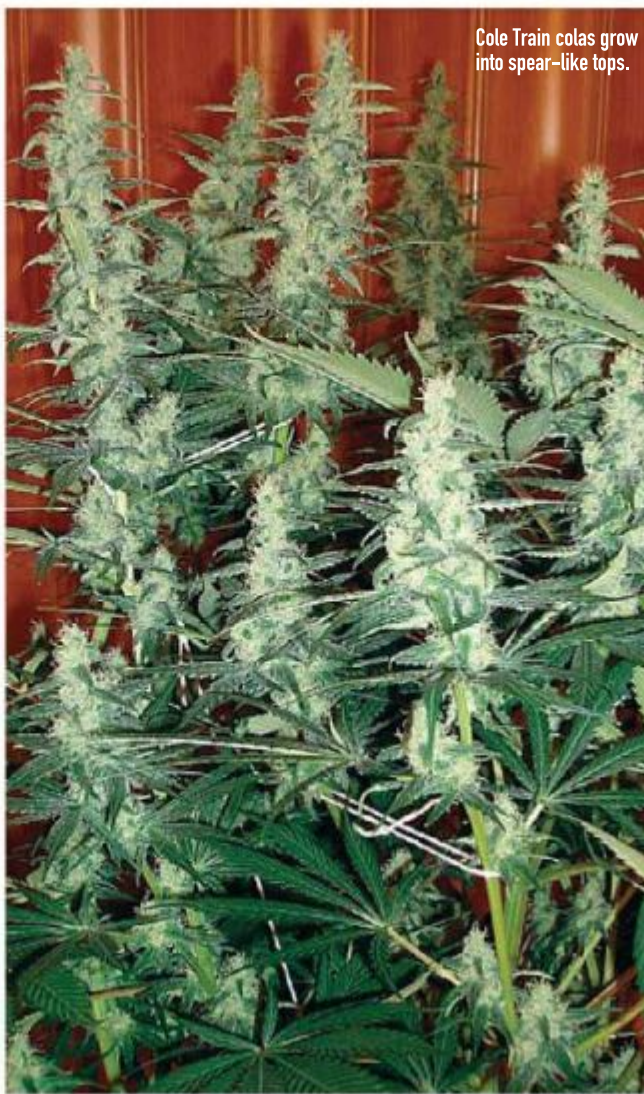
Contact: BC Bud Depot, bcbudonline.com



The Black turns darker and darker as it matures.



This FI close-up shows how sticky this plant can get.



Cole Train colas grow into spear-like tops.

COLE TRAIN

RESERVA PRIVADA

Aaron and Don from DNA Genetics have decided to provide a showcase for some of their favorite medicinal strains from their California home. The idea was to take some of the West Coast's finest private vintage strains, such as this year's winner, Cole Train, and release them to the public through a collective they call Reserva Privada. Cole Train originates from the Humboldt County area and is the result of pollinating the female Jasmine (a mid-'90s Silver Haze hybrid) with the Trainwreck (T4) male. This one tastes like the old-school Colombian genetics prized and treasured by seasoned smokers from the days of yore. This mostly *indica* variety also resists pests and molds, making Cole Train perfect to grow in harsher climates.

Flowering time: seven to nine weeks

Contact: Reserva Privada, dnagenetics.com



Fucking Incredible truly lives up to its name.

FUCKING INCREDIBLE

VANCOUVER ISLAND SEED COMPANY

G and Kat have been growing and breeding cannabis for decades. Their years of experience creating strains for the harsh environment of Vancouver Island has resulted in plants that withstand the most challenging elements, resist molds and diseases, and produce huge

colas that dry into the stickiest and stinkiest of buds. The wonderfully (and aptly) named Fucking Incredible—a.k.a. the FI for short—is a tasty, *indica*-heavy hybrid with lots of vigor that's easy to grow and fucking incredible to smoke.

Flowering time: six to eight weeks

Contact: Green Life Seeds, vancouverseeds.com ✨

ROAD TO THE CUP: PARTE TRES,

BLU FIN

I know what you're thinking: You're totally bummed that this, our third and final installment of the series, brings us to the end of our road. But look on the bright side: It's November, and the 21st Annual Cannabis Cup is only weeks away. Hopefully, you can continue the journey with us across the Atlantic and party with us Cup-style. But if not, behold: our last piece of the great preview. We hope you enjoy—it was all for you!

Story & photos by Nico Escondido

Welcome to the Motherland, where good breeding and new strains come to life!

Day 12

What day is it? I have no idea. Twelve?! Shit, the locals are right—the hash here is no joke, and it takes its toll on you. But I am still stoked: My last visit has serious potential. After all, it's Barney's Farm day.

In case you've never been to Amsterdam, or have never leafed through the myriad advertising pages in this great publication, Barney's is a staple of the Amsterdam scene, whether you're tourist or a local. With more Cannabis Cup wins than I care to count, Barney's now holds five franchise stores under its banner and, as you might have gathered, has been a perennial contender at the Cup for over a decade.

Originally opened under different ownership in 1986, Barney's was taken over by Derry, the current owner and a true cannabis warrior, in 1992. Since that time, Derry has transformed the company into much more than just a coffeehouse, bringing with him a new vision of business and cultivation ideals. Today, Derry operates Barney's Coffee Shop, Barney's Lounge, Barney's Farm, Barney's Uptown and Amnesia Coffee Shop along with his wife (and the original owner of Amnesia), Sissy.

Once upon a time, however, Derry was involved in a much more hands-on fashion. A pioneer of new and undiscovered cannabis as well as a connoisseur of fine hashish, Derry spent extensive time exploring various regions around the world. Living and traveling throughout India for much of the mid- to late 1980s, he was largely involved in the hash trade and the importation of Indian charas. Those endeavors naturally

translated into adventure, networking and contacts.

"This was a time when we were free to do what we wanted to do there," Derry explains, emotional about the memories of a time that would eventually launch a small empire.

It was there that Derry began "popping seeds" of various lineage in large quantity and experimenting with newfound strains. Some of these varieties were entirely new (or perhaps "lost" is the better word) landraces that were found in the western and southern parts of Asia. These genetics would be selected from on a grand scale and preserved; they would later resurface as Derry found himself in a new place and time.

Today, Barney's Farm has grown into one of the biggest names in breeding, seed sales and cannabis tourism. If you wander into Barney's Lounge, the Farm's newest store near the center of town, you can find 17 different varieties of seeds for sale, of which *seven* have won Cannabis Cups, including last year's winners: G-13 Haze (1st Place, Cannabis Cup), Top Dawg (1st Place, *Indica* Cup) and Crimea Blue (2nd Place, *Indica* Cup). The Top Dawg entry came via a new synergy between Barney's Farm and Amnesia, when Derry and Sissy joined forces in both matrimony and marijuana. More than half their seeds are available in 100 percent feminized packs, making favorite strains such as Morning Glory (Afghani x Hawaiian x Skunk), Laughing Buddha (Thai x Jamaican) and Violator Kush (Malana [of India] x Hindu Kush) that much more popular.



This clone nursery raises thousands of cuttings a week of the world's most sought-after ganja.



This forced hermaphrodite pollinated itself to make Red Dragon seed stock.

The Mad Botanists

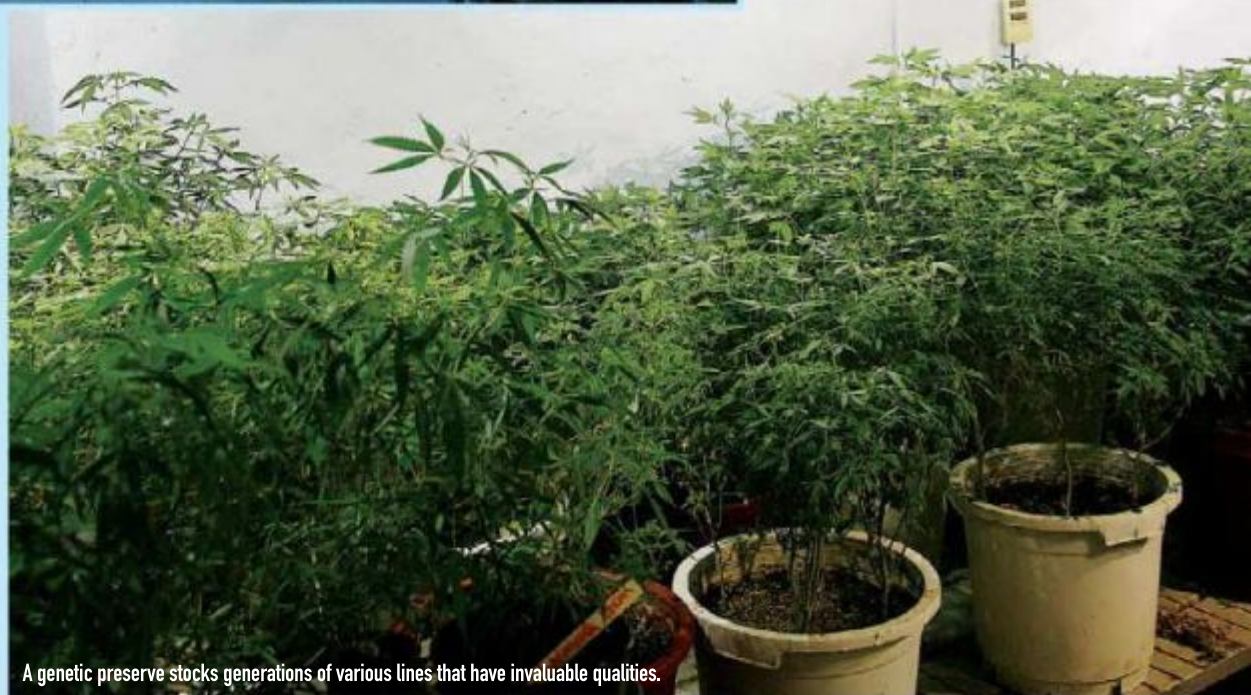
Now, to be fair and honest with you, our readers, I have to say that this piece of writing is neither fair nor honest! In fact, of all my travels in the Nether-worlds, my days on Barney's Farm saw some of the most secretive, heavily guarded gardens of all. So some of the information I am allowed to divulge will have to be, well, slightly guarded ...

But as to the gardens, I can attest that these just may be the not-so-distant relatives of the Garden of Eden itself. We're talking full-service, start-to-finish cannabis farms, complete with breeding facilities, huge mother rooms, clone nurseries and genetic preserves. For the experience alone, I am grateful, and as for the pot-well, I'll let you be the judge of that, but I can promise you this: You won't be disappointed.

Upon my arrival, Derry's two master growers, Tony and Sebastian, greet me. We have a wild ride ahead of us as we leave all remnants of city life behind and trek out into a vast world of rolling hills and dirt roads, visiting facility after facility. At first, there is some concern about language barriers, but when one grower meets another, it's almost as if you're speaking a language all your own. We begin at a testing facility that houses a large mother room and genetic preserve, plus a clone nursery. Tony and Sebastian begin to bombard me with info.

Perhaps the most intriguing information came from a funny-looking calendar hanging on a wall in the first room we step into. Sebastian finds me staring at it, perplexed, and begins to explain that their cultivation schedule adheres strictly to the lunar calendar. He points out the various phases of the moon in each month, and under each phase are graphic icons that denote a specific aspect of growing that flourishes during that period. For instance, Sebastian will only take cuttings during very specific phases of the moon because those lunar phases control the amount of moisture in the soil, which determines in turn when the plants will root best. It is a schedule that these guys take very seriously and follow meticulously. In fact, Sebastian swears by it— and, judging by my surroundings, it seems to work out extremely well.

In a few isolated back rooms, various strains are crossed together to produce seeds of new strains. These new seeds are grown out in small batches just to taste the buds they produce. As I walk around the room,



A genetic preserve stocks generations of various lines that have invaluable qualities.

there are huge branches of buds strewn about on coffee tables and drying racks—all labeled with different markings to annotate the lineage. It reminds me of a graveyard in some ways: piles of buds that didn't make the grade, smoked maybe only once or twice to gauge the flavor and potency and then discarded without a second thought. The sheer amount of work that goes into these projects, all to take one toke—and then possibly to throw it away!—is exhilarating and makes the hairs on the back of my neck rise. This is a serious battleground for cannabis cultivation.

As Tony and Sebastian lead me through another door, I know immediately from the bright white hue cast on the floor that this is a vegetation room. It houses hundreds of mother plants of varying genetics, all being grown under metal halide (MH) lamps with a few compact fluorescent (CF) lamps mixed in. A lovely woman, Sebastian's wife, is sitting at a table preparing various cuttings for placement in the nursery. The room is a fairly sterile environment, as the work requires. They begin to point out different strains not currently in use but being kept healthy and beautiful for future breeding projects. I watch as the woman, wearing latex gloves, works diligently with the cuttings. Then I pan over to Tony and Sebastian scrutinizing a new grow-medium mixture, and I realize that these people have truly dedicated their lives to a cause—a cause that, in the end, supplies the world with some of our best marijuana. If there was a Disney World of Pot, this would be the Magic Kingdom.

ATTACK OF THE CLONES

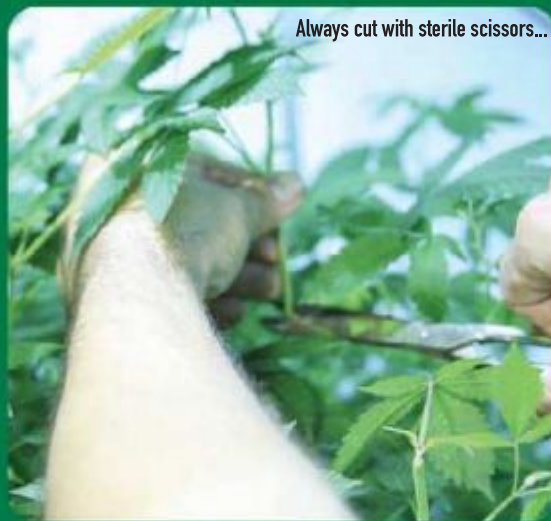
A quick tutorial was given by Sebastian on the nuances of clone production. Actually, there are very few nuances, as Sebastian succinctly broke down for our readers the art (and simplicity) of producing high-quality, viable clones. In quick fashion, Sebastian showed me four easy steps for 1-2-3 cloning. In a mother room that can churn out over 500 clone babies a day, simplicity is the key to production.

STEP 1: First, pick out a healthy branch to cut near the top of the mother plant. Look for a small side shoot, about 4 to 5 inches tall, that has healthy, medium-sized leaves. Cut the shoot from the main branch at a 45° angle. This creates more surface area at the base of the cutting for roots to grow out from.

STEP 2: Dip the base of the cutting in a rooting hormone to help trigger the growth of new roots. Rooting hormones can be either liquids, gels or powders, and they're usually available in any gardening center.

STEP 3: Gently insert the cutting into the growing medium. Many growers prefer rockwool cubes (or plugs) that they first soak in water (sometimes with mild nutrients or hormones mixed in) to create a moist environ for root growth. Peat-based mediums such as peat pellets are also an excellent rooting medium.

STEP 4: Trim back, or cut in half, the fingers of the larger leaves on each cutting. This limits the amount of food that the cutting can produce to feed itself and causes it to direct more energy into root production, the most important aspect of cloning. Cuttings are then put in trays and placed in the nursery under fluorescent lamps. The trays are watered every day to keep the root zones moist, and the nursery temperatures are kept very cool (70°F to 72°F) in order to avoid heat stress.



Flower Power

Of course, there was more to come. I was anxious to get into the flowering rooms—not just to see what was being grown and sneak-peek some Cup entries, but also because I knew this was where the good stuff was being sampled.

But as we arrived at the next site, I began to feel a bit of tension surrounding the journalistic nature of my visit. My job, after all, wasn't to smoke all these people's weed; it was to find out what Barney's Farm had up its sleeve for the 2008 Cannabis Cup. That job involved getting people to talk, and it proved harder to do than I thought—even *after* smoking.

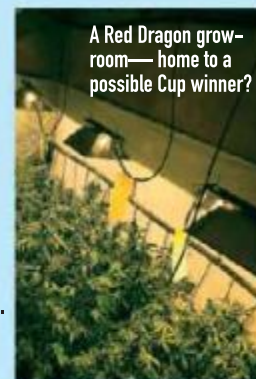
Tony and Sebastian were tight-lipped, referring to each type of bud with a code name that involved only a letter and number—K8, A1, T5 and so on. If I couldn't even get the strain names, how was I going to get the lineage? Every time I'd start to ask a question, I got a joint handed to me instead, until finally Tony told me that I had to go back to the top of the command chain to get any classified information. I did find out, though, that the K8 was going to be a Cup entry—but *sativa* or *indica*? That was all for Derry to answer.

In the meantime, I looked at room after room filled with rows upon rows of tall, flowering plants. There were colas popping out every which way—some in week four of flowering, others in week eight. Everything was arranged for ample rotation and access so that space was never a limiting factor for the new projects being brought in. This was a top-notch facility through and through: basic and simple, but with gorgeous, healthy and—most importantly—happy plants. The flowering rooms used only fans to circulate the air and keep plants cool, while a drip-emitter system fed the plants via thin spaghetti lines that ran from mixing pails to the base of each plant. The master cultivators used a mild nutrient mix, but, as I found with most of the growers on this tour, organic feeding was not a priority.

"I can tell you one thing about this K8 strain you're asking so much about," said Tony. "It tested close to 25 percent THC at Spannabis this year," referring to the cannabis expo held annually in Spain. That was an impressive fact, since the most potent strains in the world teeter around 28 percent.

Just as impressive were the breeding rooms, where flowering plants were sprayed with a specialized chemical solution called STS (a mixture of sodium thiosulfate, silver nitrate and water) to stress them, forcing them to turn hermaphrodite. These female plants, usually sprayed on the first day of flowering, will then actually develop small pollen sacs and pollinate themselves, creating a stock of *feminized* seeds for that particular strain. These seeds—a very popular product for Barney's Farm—are guaranteed to germinate female plants, eliminating the need to "sex" the plants and pull out all the males in the early stages of flowering.

Before the plants finish, the growers will begin a 10-day flush. The combination of fresh water plus a few flushing agents helps to leach out leftover minerals and nutrient residues for a cleaner, smoother smoke. After about nine weeks, the growers will harvest a flowering crop and begin drying the buds on screens. They tell me that after a week of drying, the buds are ready for smoking with very little, if any, curing.



HIGH TIMES

PRESENTS

CANNABIS CUP



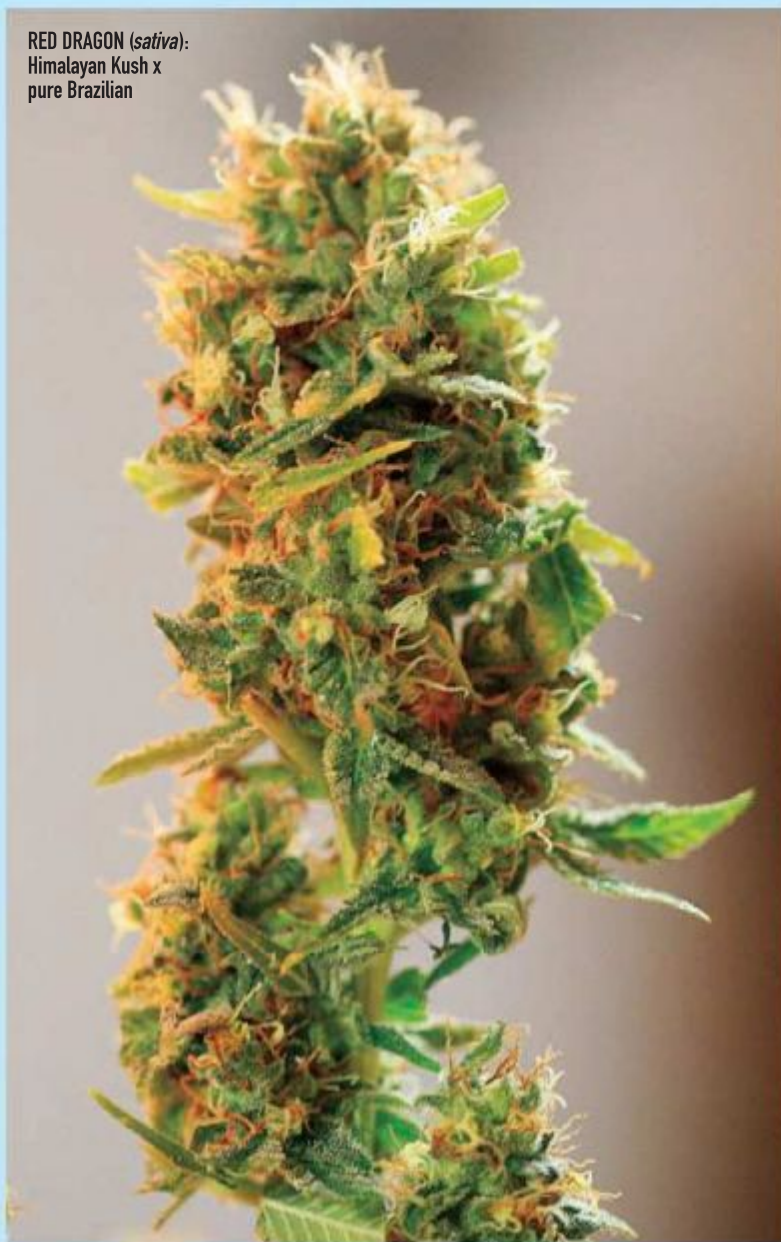
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RED DRAGON (*sativa*):
Himalayan Kush x
pure Brazilian



LSD (*indica*): Skunk x Mazar



Strains Decoded

So what were those mysterious strains that smelled like Diesel but tasted like Kush? What was that crazy *sativa* high that reminded me of an old Thai? What new names would be conjured up by Derry to give some added psychological flavor to the new lines being developed? After many hours of sampling and a little bit of cajoling, Derry, his master growers and myself sat down at a table for a candid discussion of what was to come at this year's Cannabis Cup.

Because of the high level of competitiveness that these breeders bring to the Cup each year, I first had to convince the management of Barney's Farm that this story would run way too late for anyone to copy any of their ideas as far as the creation of new super-strains goes. But once I had their trust, they began to lay out (and let me sample) some of this year's entries.

To start, the favorite child, K8, was actually Red Dragon, a possible 2008 entry for Best *Sativa*. The parentage of this line is fascinating: a West Himalayan Kush crossed with a true-breeding Brazilian *sativa*. "These buds have a distinct and immediate, exotic *sativa* high," Derry tells us, "but then it is followed minutes later by a wonderful undertow of a solid Kush stone." I found this to be disconcerting, but overly accurate. It's not often you find a bud that has different phenotypes in its high—and if it does, it usually creates a mixed or balanced stone. This strain provided two different rushes and has the taste and smell of sweet jungle fruits.

The Red Dragon, however, was the subject of some internal conflict at Barney's Farm, as another super-*sativa* variety—known up to this point only as B1—was in competition with it for possible entry into the Breeders' Cup for Best *Sativa*. Because Barney's Farm is both a seed company and a chain of coffeeshops, Derry has the luxury of entering three Cannabis Cup categories: the two breeders' cups (Best *Indica*

and Best *Sativa*) and the one for best coffeeshop weed (actually known as *the Cannabis Cup*). B1—or Utopia, as Derry finally confided—was a possibility for either the coffeeshop category or Best *Sativa*.

"The Utopia is a straight Brazilian," he says. "It's a jungle variety with no manipulations at all." Growing out over 3,500 seeds in a massive selection, Derry explains, Tony and Sebastian infused no other genetics, keeping the line pure and backcrossing selected plants with the stronger genetics in the same line to get the desired phenotypes stabilized.

Next up was the Best *Indica* entry, which I took a stab at guessing would be the A8. Anytime Tony passed me a joint that plowed me deep into his couch, it turned out to be the A8, a super-stony strain that I figured was in the Kush family.

"You're right about the A8 as our entry for Best *Indica*," Derry tells me. "But it's not a Kush variety—it's an old Skunk variety crossed with Mazar. We're calling it LSD."

The Mazar is known to have Afghan genetics, one of the more powerful *indicas* on earth. The LSD produces a euphoric, almost psychedelic experience. As Derry puts it: "It's a super-trippy and very powerful stone—a Barney's Farm special."

I thought that was funny: calling one strain "special" when any of these easily qualify as world contenders in my book. And right there, I guess, is what *is* special and unique about Amsterdam and all the fine people I met there. It's no wonder we choose it to play host to the Cannabis Cup every year—after all, there's no other place like it in the world. I can't wait to get back, and I hope to see you all there this November as well ...

Until then, adios, amigos, and thanks to everyone who helped make this series possible! ✨

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THE HAPPY WARRIOR: MARC EMERY

INTERVIEW BY DAN SKYE

Branded the “Prince of Pot” by his country’s media, Marc Emery has served as head of the British Columbia Marijuana Party since it was created in 2001 for the provincial elections. (The BCMP had candidates in every riding, as the Canadian parliamentary districts are called, and garnered 3.4 percent, or 53,000 votes.) Emery himself has run for political office countless times. He has made a career of gleefully embracing controversy and, from an early age, has revelled in skewering wrongful government policies.

Emery is best known as the Johnny Appleseed of the modern marijuana movement. His company, Marc Emery Direct Marijuana Seeds, was responsible for the cultivation of cannabis throughout North America. Although the business was a veritable gold mine, over the course of 11 years, the company’s primary function was to raise funds—nearly \$5 million—for a variety of cannabis causes.

Unfortunately, that money train was derailed when the Vancouver police, at the request of the US Drug Enforcement Administration, raided the seed company in 2005. In a plea bargain with US authorities, Emery agreed to serve five years in US and Canadian jails if the charges were dropped against his friends and co-defendants, Greg Williams and Michelle Rainey. But last March, that deal collapsed when the Canadian government refused to sign on. Now he awaits new legal proceedings and possible extradition to the US.

Despite this fact, Emery carries on his cause with a remarkable lack of fear. He continues to publish his Canadian marijuana magazine, *Cannabis Culture*, and remains a staunch activist. Rest assured, the “Prince” has lost none of his taste for battle.

Have there been any changes in the status of your case?

There is still going to be an extradition hearing during the week of February 9 to 17, and the US is still determined to extradite me. I’m charged with conspiracy to manufacture marijuana, conspiracy to distribute marijuana and conspiracy to launder

money. I never dealt in marijuana—only seeds. We actually had a plea deal in January 2008, and my lawyer accepted it on my behalf: I’d serve five years in jail in Canada and maybe six months in the United States in exchange for Michelle Rainey and Greg Williams not getting any jail. But peculiarly enough, the Canadian government refused that deal, even though the US Justice Department is their client in this case, as with all extraditions. The client had a deal, we had a deal, but the Canadian government just didn’t want to facilitate it.

Why was that?

My lawyer says they just don’t like me. They’d rather get rid of me to the United States. Now we’re back to square one with the extradition hearing in February, and with a few days of court this November for defense submissions.

Do you have any idea what the future holds?

My lawyer says the odds of my winning in a court are not good, because the treaties with the Canadian government let the Americans get whatever they want. Canadians are used to extradition cases where there is some kind of capital crime or major harm—you don’t usually see low-level extraditions for this type of crime [selling seeds, which is punished according to established precedent in British Columbia by a \$200 fine and, more recently, one month in jail]. This is a nonviolent offense with no specific victims. It’s all based on the fact that I heckled US Drug Czar John Walters unmercifully in November 2002.

What was the nature of your heckling?

Walters came to Vancouver to tell the city what to do. It cost \$500 for a table of 10 people to listen to him at a luncheon. There were six tables of police officers, two tables for the US Consulate and a whole bunch for big corporations like FedEx, who were showing their support for the US government. And then there was our table of activists—and whenever Walters told a lie about marijuana, we’d shout things like “*Liar! Bullshitter! Incarcerator!*” And it made the national news broadcasts. Ultimately we triumphed, because

the new mayor and the old mayor were at that meeting and they didn’t agree with him either—of course, in their own way. After that, I had an investigation launched against me.

With the specter of jail before you, do you regret your outspokenness?

Not at all. I’m flattered that the DEA took notice of our activities, because they’re very specifically political. “Overgrow the Government!”—that’s our campaign. We wanted people to grow lots of pot, to grow more pot than the government could destroy, to literally make it futile for government anti-cannabis programs. That’s the loftiest goal we had.

Why did you choose the legalization of marijuana as your primary cause?

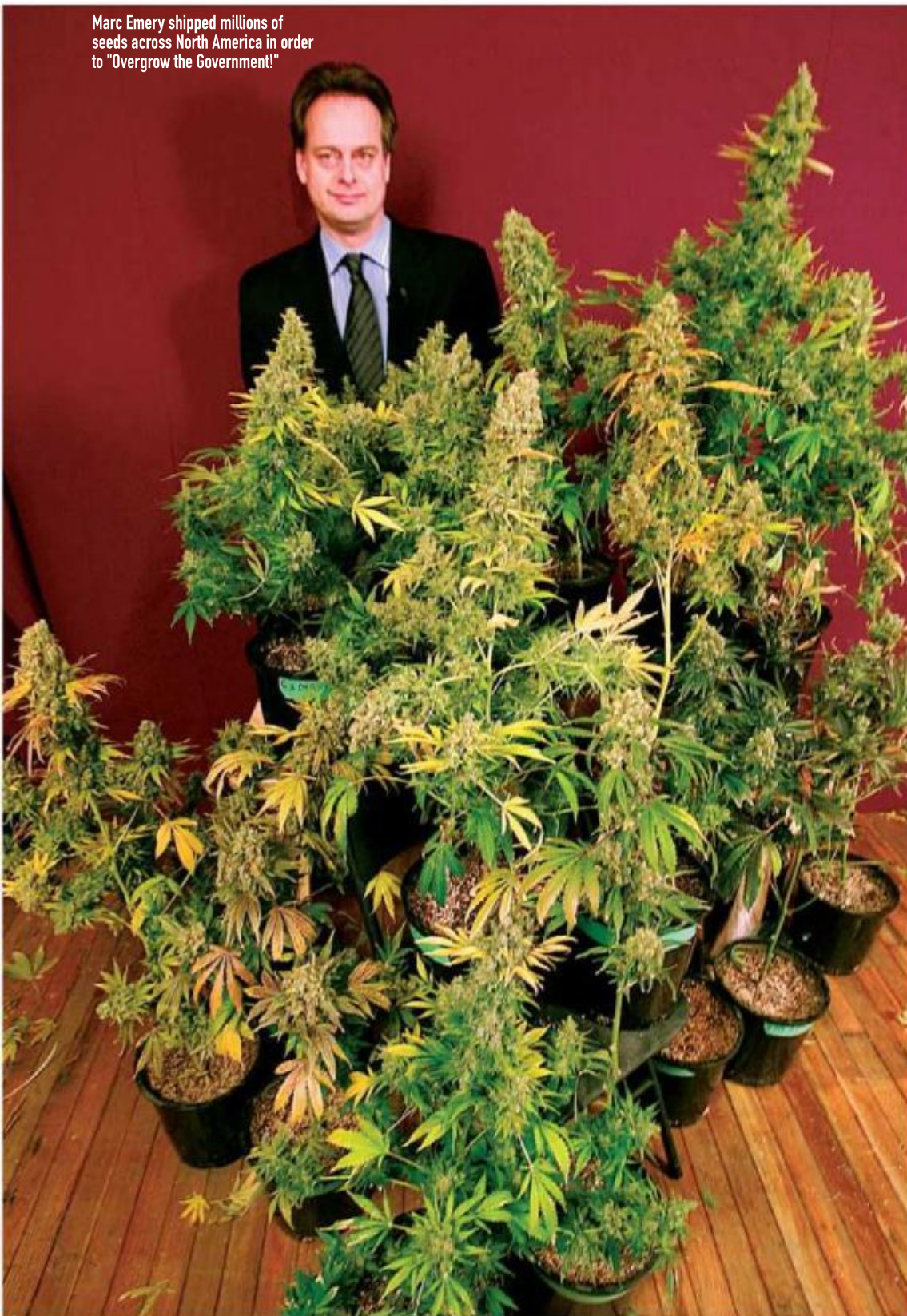
You mean why didn’t I choose world hunger or poverty? People don’t go to jail for world hunger or poverty. Now it’s true that the disenfranchised and the poor are targeted by police everywhere, but there is no single issue where so many people are in jail around the world. People forget that—they think I’m fighting for the right to smoke something. I’m fighting for the right to live peacefully and honorably without having to go to jail for that lifestyle choice. Everybody agrees with that. There’s nothing more noble you can do with your life than try to free innocent people from jail.

How successful was Marc Emery Seeds?

The seed company was responsible for all the political activities we were sponsoring. It was actually the fundraiser: Over about 11 years, we sold millions and millions of seeds. The business made a total of \$15 million—I paid federal and provincial income tax, too, as a “marijuana seed distributor”—and we gave away \$4.7 million, which was the profit made after paying employees, suppliers and advertising costs. It was about \$500,000 a year we gave out, an unbelievably successful fundraising operation—as in *give-away* operation. I began with four strains from two breeders in 1994 and had reached 500 strains from 32 seed banks when we got busted and shut down in July



Marc Emery shipped millions of seeds across North America in order to "Overgrow the Government!"



2005. We supported crews in their early years, like the Marijuana Policy Project. We supported a lot of court actions and ballot initiatives. The Global Million Marijuana March posters sent all over the world were made and paid for by us. Compassion clubs and many organizations were helped out. We funded a class-action suit in Philadelphia against the federal government and paid for the Canadian Supreme Court challenge against pot laws in December 2003, which we unfortunately lost 6-3.

The December 5, 1995, *Wall Street Journal* put you on the map when they reported you were making \$40,000 a week.

That was a really good story. That was my first feeling of the royal treatment. [laughing]

Do you believe that kind of publicity made you a target?

American publicity was always problematic—I always seemed to get raided shortly after. My first raid came after the *Wall Street Journal* article. My second raid came after CNN ran a special on me called "Canada's Prince of Pot." The third raid was right after I was in *Rolling Stone*. I learned that doing an interview for a big press magazine can cause problems.

Your activism has always had a gleeful aspect. You seem to enjoy tweaking the government.

You have to be a happy warrior; there's no point in being otherwise. I was arrested 22 times in Canada for pot-related offenses—never for growing or selling—jailed 17 times, raided six times; I've

been in jail in eight of the 10 provinces. The thing is, if you're going to be an activist, you have to be prepared to go to jail—and it could be for a long time. So you've got to be in a state of mind that allows you to plan to be in jail, learn languages, write diaries, continue to support causes—because there are a lot of them—and remain positive. If I go to jail, I'll make sure my memoirs are particularly well-written. In the meantime, I'm enjoying being married to my sexy, smart wife, who is also my assistant editor. I'm basically teaching her all I know about the business so things can go on if I do end up in jail. Much of my activity is preparing for the possibility I may not be here for some amount of time.

What do you feel is the biggest misconception about you?

That I have a whole lot of money—I specifically gave it all away, because I've never been a material person. People ask, "Didn't you save some of that money? Didn't you bury it away?" I point out that if I had any money, the cops would've probably found it and it wouldn't have done anybody any good. At least when I got raided, I only had \$12 in my bank account. There was no money to take, because all the money that came in was sent back out again to our activism groups and efforts. Police are used to raiding gangs with guns and money, but with us, there were no guns, no money, no gang. There were no drugs, either, and I'm supposed to be a drug lord—the No. 1 drug trafficker in all of Canada. I've got to be the least culpable drug lord they ever raided!

What accomplishment are you proudest of?

Getting those seeds out there and causing so much pot to be created, while simultaneously creating so much political awareness about the oppression of our culture and people. I'm really proud of the fact that no one ever got busted as a consequence of my activities; I never read of or heard from a person who got busted as a result of ordering my seeds. My record of security for 11 years is pretty solid. I would have felt very bad had someone got busted as a result of our dereliction.

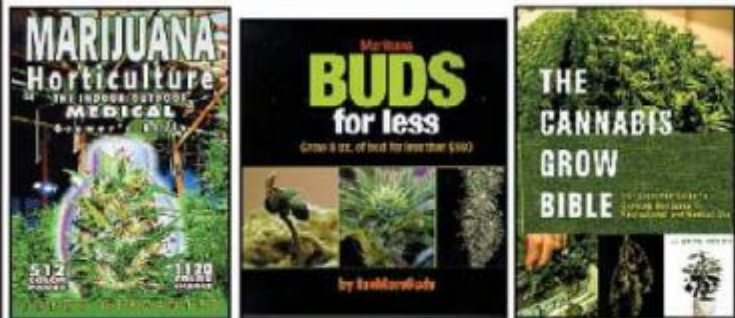
Also, one of our earliest goals was to defy the "literature law" in Canada, which banned publishing drug information. *HIGH TIMES* was banned in Canada from 1987 to 1995. In 1991, I flew then-editor Steve Hager to my hometown of London, Ontario, to promote the availability of *HIGH TIMES* at my City Lights Bookshop. When I moved to Vancouver and opened my store Hemp BC in 1994, I illegally imported *HIGH TIMES* to challenge the laws. One of the things we're proudest of was breaking that law and financing the court challenge that overturned the law. It was one of our earliest accomplishments. Of course, it's been a little bit longer trying to get cannabis legalized overall.

Do you miss the business?

No. When I started, I was the only one person in the seed business in North America for five years—now there are hundreds. Some of them are bogus, but at least there are a lot of people out there.

I don't actually miss being a seed distributor. It raised millions of dollars, but the problem in giving away millions of dollars is that you have a

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THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

lineup of people looking for money. There was an awful lot of pressure on me to continue to make lots and lots of money so I could give it out. There was an extensive list of projects that I had assisted and approved of and wanted to help with. So I was constantly under a lot of stress managing all that money. Since I'm out on bail facing extradition, my bail conditions forbid me from selling seeds, so I haven't done that since the raid.

Not running the seed business has been a bit of a blessing—I've got tons of activism, elections galore, a magazine to edit. We've got a huge, four-story, 9,000-square-foot building with two vapor lounges, two stores, an entertainment center and a new drug-history museum. Across the street is our new 420 convenience store. I've got to look after all that! Even though 1994 to 2005 was a really happy period and we raised lots of money, I'm a lot happier being focused as an editor and a politician. I'm running for mayor of Vancouver right now, and I'll be running for the provincial legislature next year.

What would you do as mayor?

I'd like to unilaterally end the prohibition of cannabis. There are sixty to eighty thousand pot smokers in Vancouver, and we're always used as the law-and-order whipping boy, even though most candidates for mayor believe in legalizing marijuana. Still, they're actually designating *more* resources to round up marijuana people until that fine, utopian day when pot is legalized. So we've got this schizophrenia going on in the mayoralty election: Most candidates think marijuana should be legalized—but until then, marijuana grow ops are raided and arrests continue.

One of my most controversial plans would be to ultimately get the heroin inside the addict's arm at harm-reduction/safe-injection facilities, so they're getting a safe drug instead of the dangerous stuff they get from street dealers. End the gang control of the black market—ultimately, it would clean up the social disorder in the downtown east side. It may be the most controversial point of my platform proposal, but it would also do probably the most good for the community.

How is Cannabis Culture faring?

It breaks even. It's never made money. The nature of the magazine



Marc and his bride Jodie light up on their wedding day.

'Pot smokers are always used as the law-and-order whipping boy.'

has changed radically since our first issue in 1994. Virtually no one was on the Internet, so we really didn't have to worry about competition. Today, you've got advertising competition and more magazine competition. I was just the publisher until I took over editing duties in early 2005. Back then, before the DEA raid on July 29, 2005, our magazine had 14 employees. After the raid, we had to cut back, and now it's just me, my wife Jodie, one layout artist and one advertising manager doing the whole magazine. I've been having more trouble lately coming up with information that is really new and exciting. The problem is, you're competing with the Internet, where a lot of the information is already accessible in one form or another. Finding unique visual and storytelling material that's worth buying a magazine for in this day and age is more and more challenging. After 72 issues of Cannabis Culture and hundreds of HIGH TIMES, it can get redundant. For me as an editor, the challenge is to keep it exciting.

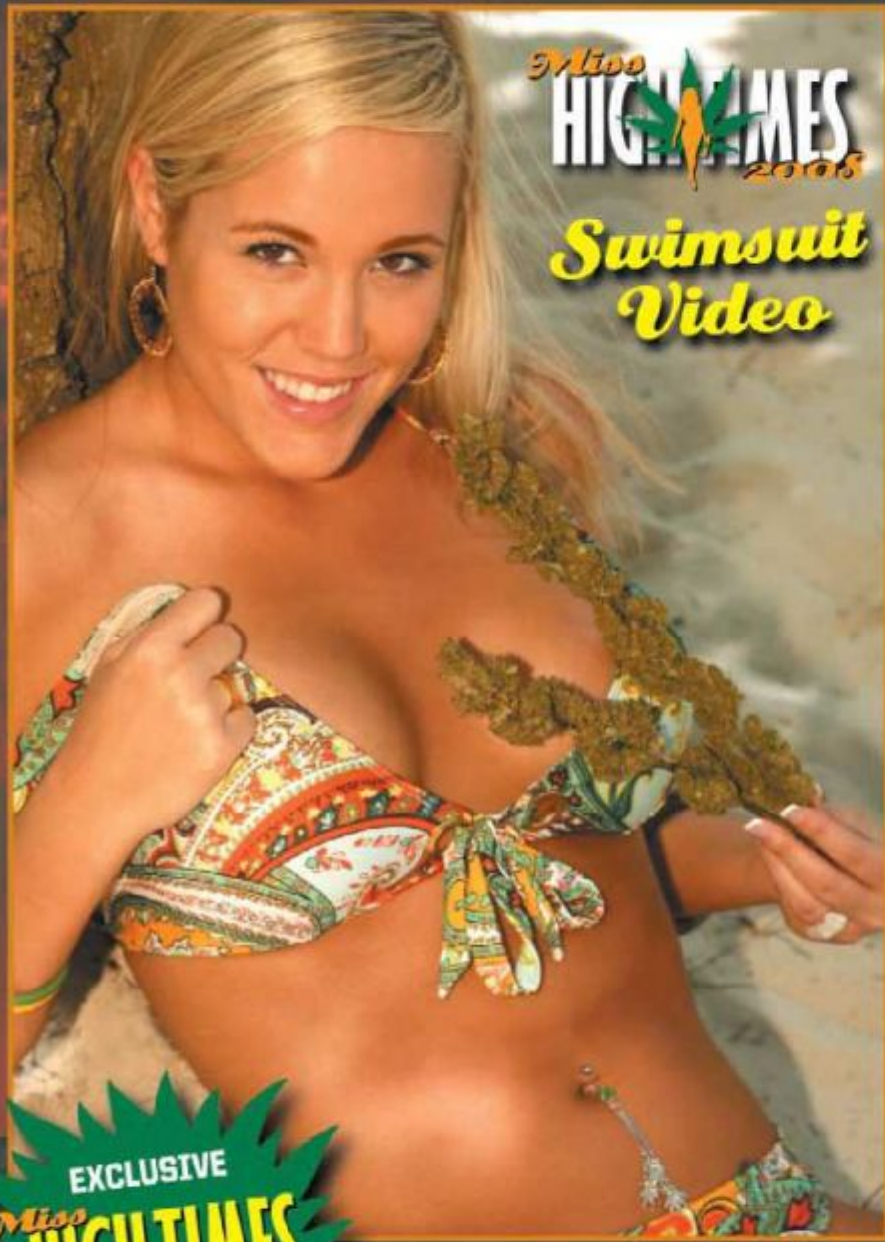
HIGH TIMES has often come under fire in the pages of Cannabis Culture. Any particular reason?

Steve Hager did my first really great interview about cannabis activism in HIGH TIMES in 1992. When it came out, I was so honored to be in HIGH TIMES that I vowed that I would make them appreciate the

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THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

Emery, the activist.



'The United States is a warmongering tyranny that oppresses its own people in record numbers by putting them in jail.'

fact that they had given me that interview by doing great work through activism. So I look back, and I feel I really justified the coverage they gave me 16 years ago.

HIGH TIMES and I are a good example of a love/hate relationship. I love 'em because they're the premier marijuana magazine out there and we helped get them into Canada—and I was very proud of that. In 1995, at the peak of my import business, I was importing 2,000 copies of HIGH TIMES into Canada to help break the ban. By then, I had a nationwide network of magazine distribution, because they'd been banned by all the conventional methods. The so-called "hate" part is that I've been criticized—but mostly ignored—by the last decade's editors when it came to coverage of seed businesses and activism.

Ours is definitely not a *hate* relationship; it's trying to improve HIGH TIMES to be the kind of magazine that I would ideally like to see it be. And that's a great kind of goal—that through competition, you hopefully improve your competitors. The fact is that there's a lot of overlap between our readers. People read both, so there's no point in trying to divide and conquer, or saying, "We're better than they are" or "You shouldn't buy their magazine," because it forces people to choose between one or the other—ultimately, a loss for both parties. That's bad marketing.

How do you think Canadians view Americans?

Well, many view them as being part and parcel of the Bush administration, but that's a knee-jerk reaction. Most Americans we meet are completely opposed to the Bush administration. But Canadians hear Barack Obama talking about the United States as the greatest nation on the earth, and we believe that Americans are under a fantastic delusion about their own country. It's not the freest country in the world, it's not the best place in the world, it's not the safest place in the world, it's not even the most popular place in the world. It's the most militaristic in the world, the

biggest jailer in the world—one-quarter of the world's prisoners are in America—and it's the leader and financier of the global Drug War. Americans cling to their illusions. Even the cannabis community clings to the illusion that the United States is a beacon of freedom, and it's not. It's a warmongering tyranny that oppresses its own people in record numbers by putting them in jail.

Do Canadians feel their country is superior?

Typically, we're not an imperialist nation—though, that having been said, we have troops in Afghanistan, contrary to Canadian tradition. Prime Minister Stephen Harper wants to be like George Bush. Our fear is that the Conservative Party, our Canadian government, will adopt a more American-like posture in the world instead of being more Canadian—socialized, benign, harmless, a beacon of tolerance. That's how Canadians view themselves—and, to a certain extent, that's true.

We have to ask this: Over the years, we've read a number of posts wherein you chronicle your sexual exploits in detail. Why is that?

Well, I've been very upfront, exhibitionistic and candid since a very young age, and it's always worked for me. Bear in mind that many of the people who have changed history had big egos and were highly sexual, such as Martin Luther King Jr., John F. Kennedy—but they usually tried to keep their lifestyle secret. I keep no secrets about myself, because when you live openly and honestly and choose to become a political or media figure like I have, it's best to not have any dirty laundry. I've also found that women who admire me or like my work appreciate my earthy candor. If you've got a good retail personality, like I do, and you like to hang around with people and communicate your ideas, you tend to be very effusive. Add cannabis to that, and you tend to get *very* effusive! 🌿

To read more about Marc Emery's case and history, visit www.NoExtradition.net

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(Above) Full-color cannabis puzzle comes complete with over 500 pieces. \$19.99



CHESS (Above)

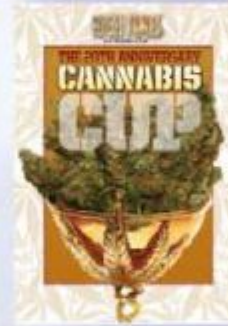
Dude, whose move is it again? The game of kings and queens enters the stoned age. This unique set includes 32 pieces, full-color playing board and instructions. \$34.99



CHECKERS (Above)

Smoke your opponent in this classic game with a fun twist. \$16.99

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20TH ANNIVERSARY CANNABIS CUP

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TOTALLY BAKED

Prepare to get fired up while comedians and stoners alike join forces in this insanely irreverent comedy. Their common goal is smoke the lid off the truth about weed. Totally Baked wants you to decide for yourself...should we legalize it? \$19.99



MISS HIGH TIMES 2008 SWIMSUIT VIDEO

Welcome to pothead paradise! A full hour of buds, bongos and babes on the beach at the 2008 Miss HIGH TIMES Pageant in Negril, Jamaica! \$16.99



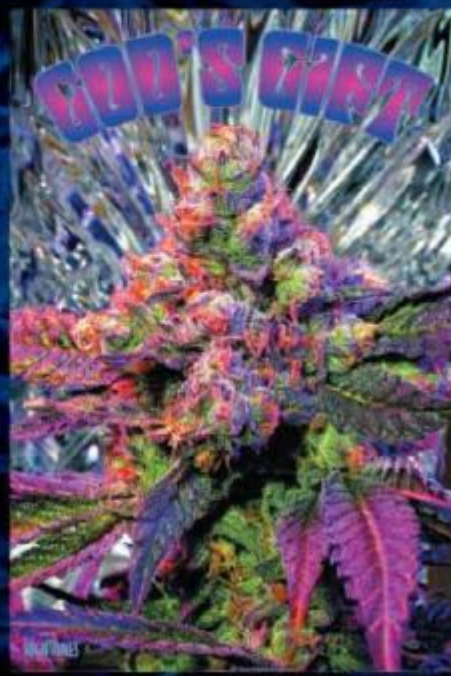
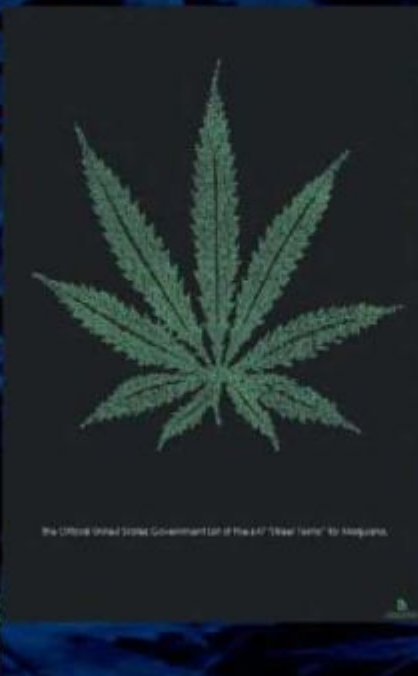
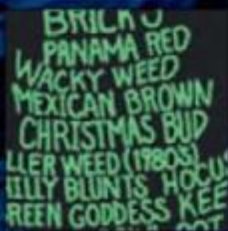
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So you think you have heard every name out there for marijuana? Some are funny, some are creative and some are just out there—but what people don't know is that the United States government keeps an official list of all these names. We are proud to offer "The Marijuana Leaf," created using the official United States government list of the 647 "street terms" for marijuana. 24" x 30" poster. \$13.99



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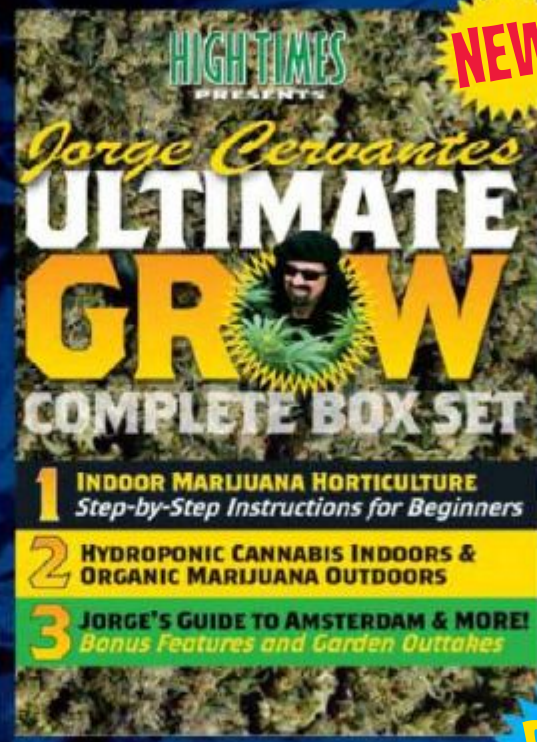
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JORGE'S ULTIMATE GROW CALENDAR
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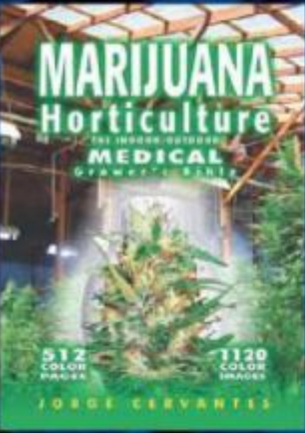
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3 JORGE'S GUIDE TO AMSTERDAM & MORE! Bonus Features and Garden Outtakes

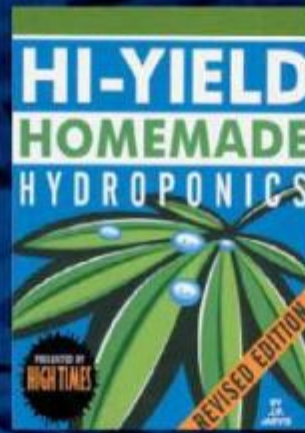
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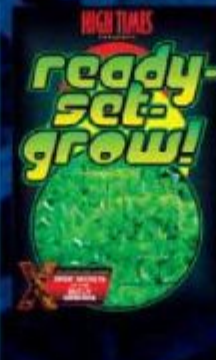
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Collection of Jorge's recent articles plus the Top 20 grow questions answered! \$6.99



Best of HT #45: Hydro Guide
Collection of hydro-specific how-to guides and gear reviews. \$6.99



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HIGH TIMES
PRESENTS

Jorge Cervantes

ULTIMATE GROW

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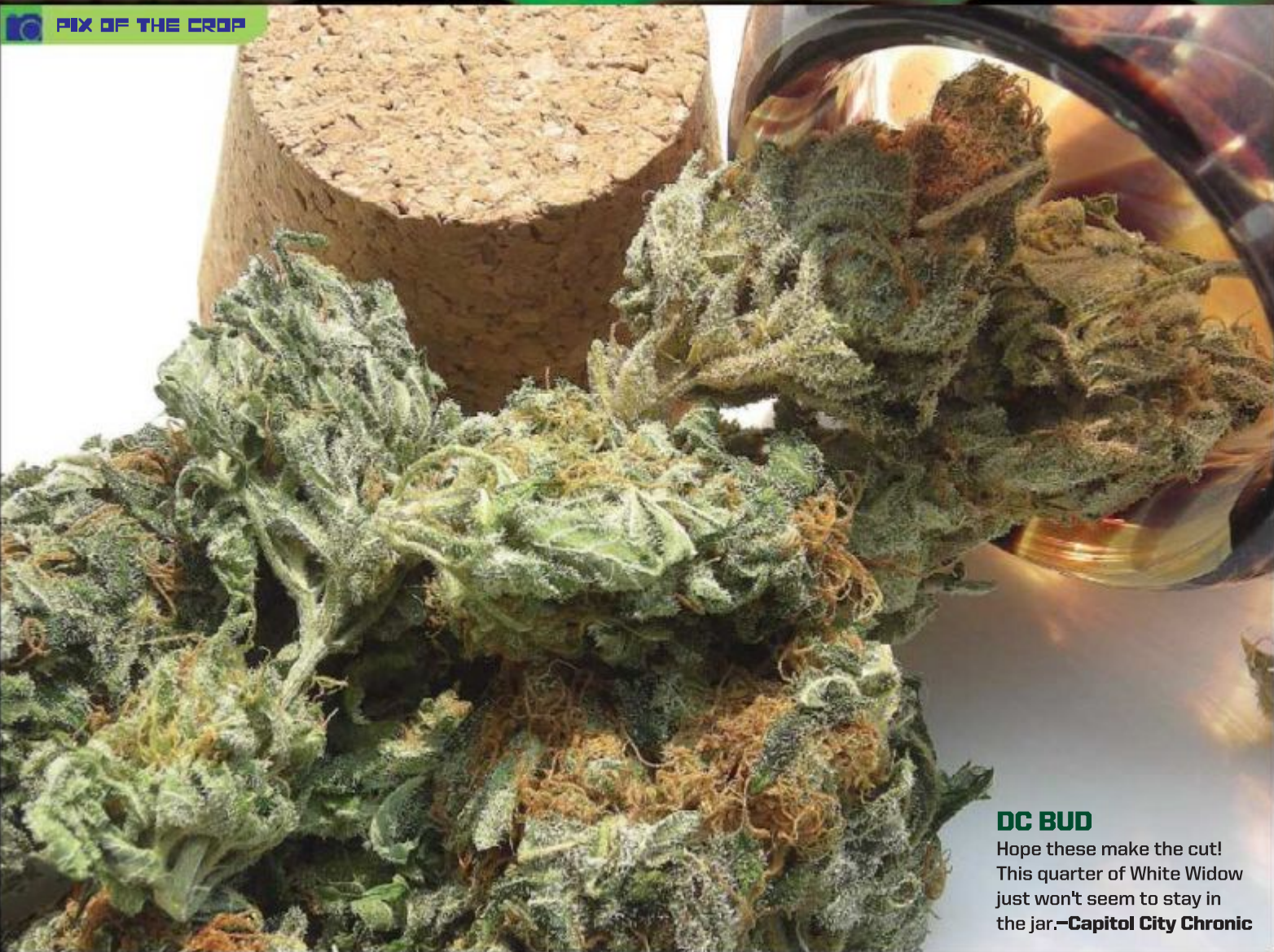
PIX OF
THE CROP
82



THMQ
86



JORGE'S RX
100



DC BUD

Hope these make the cut! This quarter of White Widow just won't seem to stay in the jar.—**Capitol City Chronic**

IT BLOOMS 4U
Ice Cream from Paradise Seeds.—**Pender**

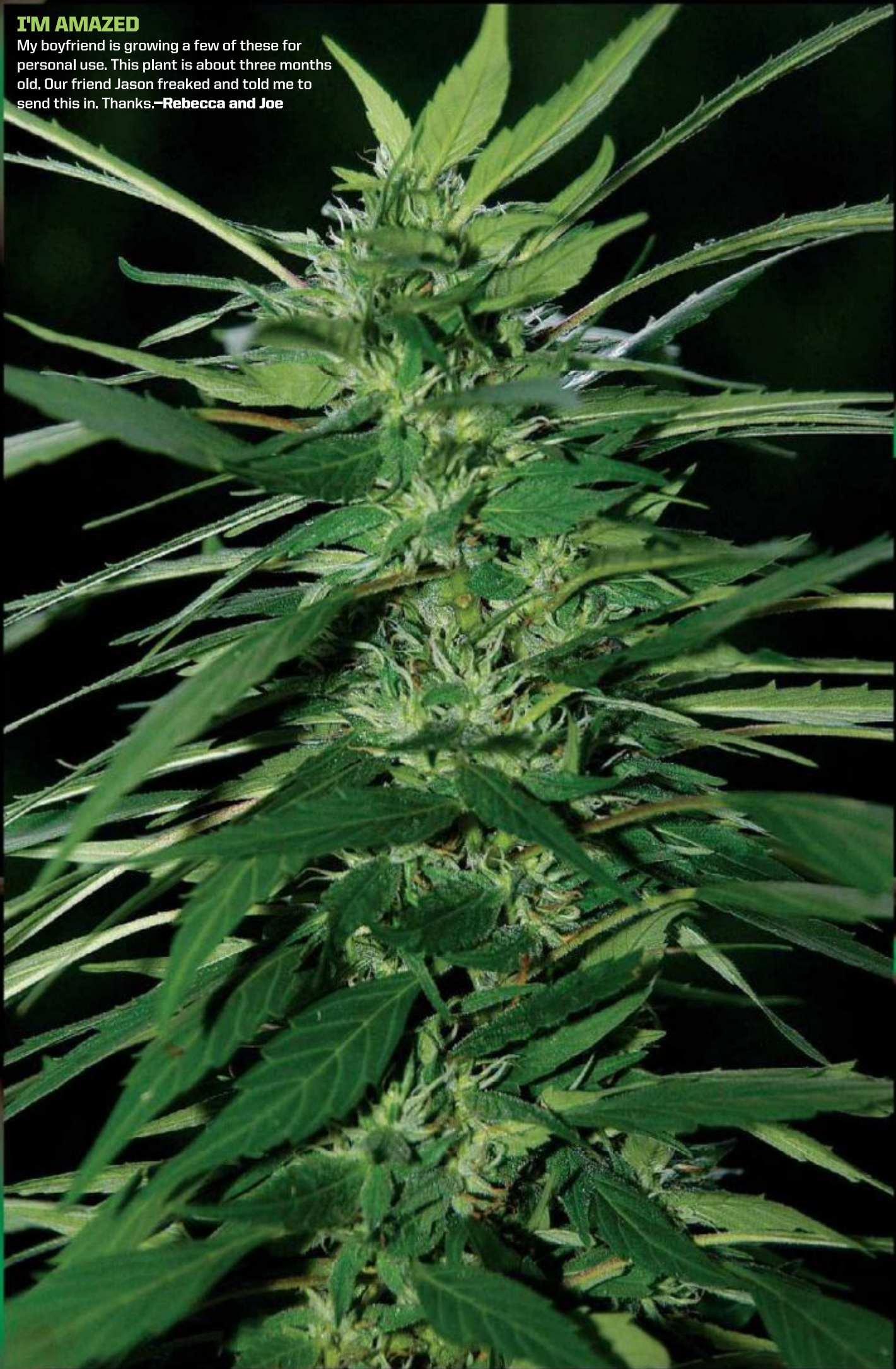


HITTIN' THE NOTE

This is the real Guitar Hero.—**Krank**

I'M AMAZED

My boyfriend is growing a few of these for personal use. This plant is about three months old. Our friend Jason freaked and told me to send this in. Thanks.—**Rebecca and Joe**



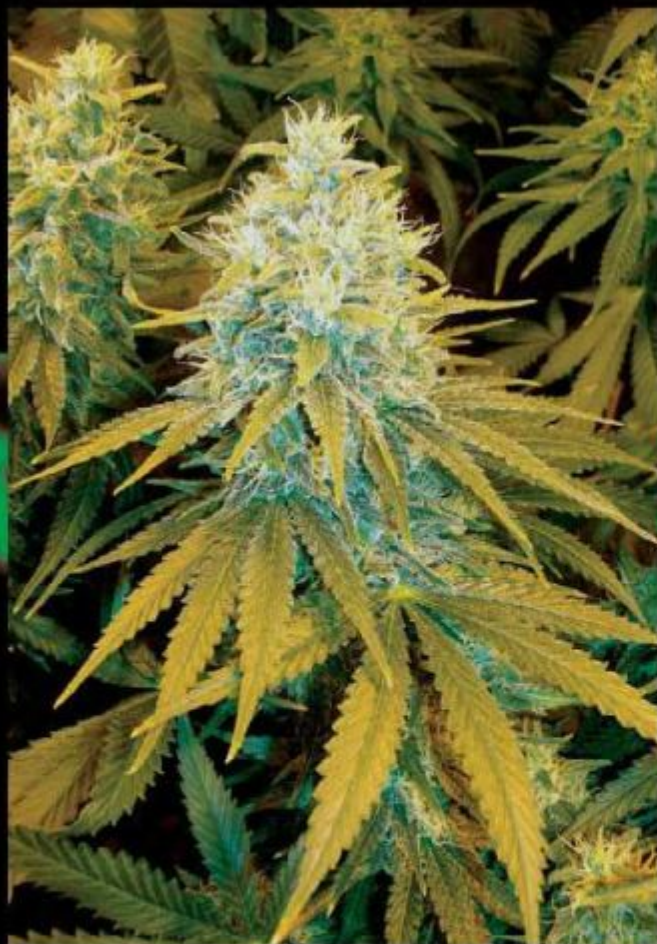


ALOHA DEAR FRIEND

Aloha! This is a picture of my greenhouse with my late friend Chad feeling the Aloha. It was his hope you guys might publish this great pic of him. He died of a stroke. Blueberry on the right, Kashmiri resin factory on the left. These beauties were harvested in mid-June! Only in Hawaii, Only the best. Mahalo—Professor Potgrower a.k.a. the Zeeman (WEEDreport.com)

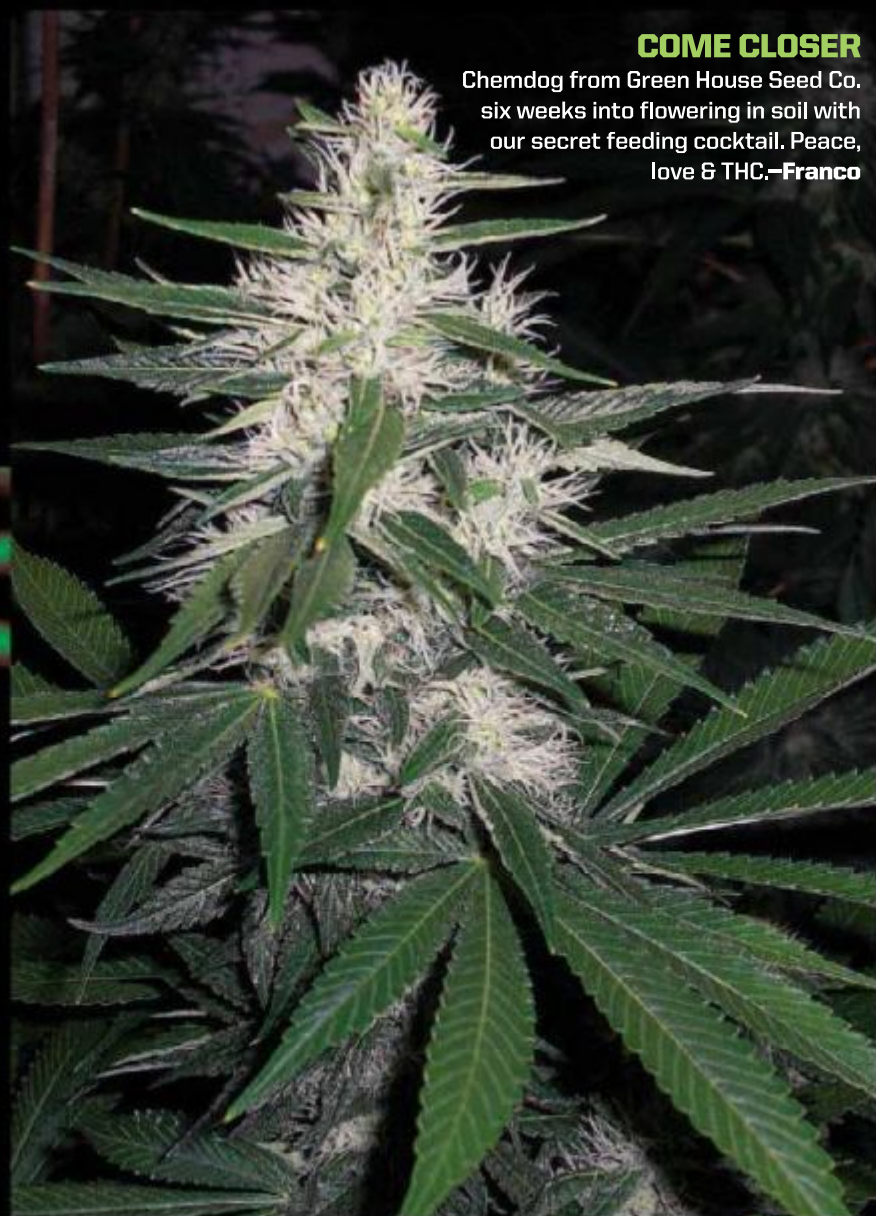
GOLDEN

Here is some Hindu Kush from Kiwi Seeds.—Pender



COME CLOSER

Chemdog from Green House Seed Co. six weeks into flowering in soil with our secret feeding cocktail. Peace, love & THC.—Franco



Pix of the Crop is reader-driven. Your submissions make all the stoners of the world dream of kind nugs. Send pictures (no Polaroids), tips, questions and stories to: HIGH TIMES, 419 Park Avenue South, 16th floor, New York, NY 10016. Digital photos can be e-mailed to mailbag@hightimes.com and must be hi-res for publication. Remember, by submitting photograph(s) you thereby grant permission to the publisher to reprint photograph(s) in HIGH TIMES, as well as in any other Trans-High Corp. publication.

HIGH TIMES

PRESENTS

CANNABIS CUP



NOVEMBER 23-27, 2008
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Trans-High Market Quotations (THMQ) reports pot prices by the ounce, strain and location. To submit prices, go to the THMQ link at hightimes.com.

CURRENT US PRICE INDEX: **\$358** (last month: \$344; YTD: \$369)

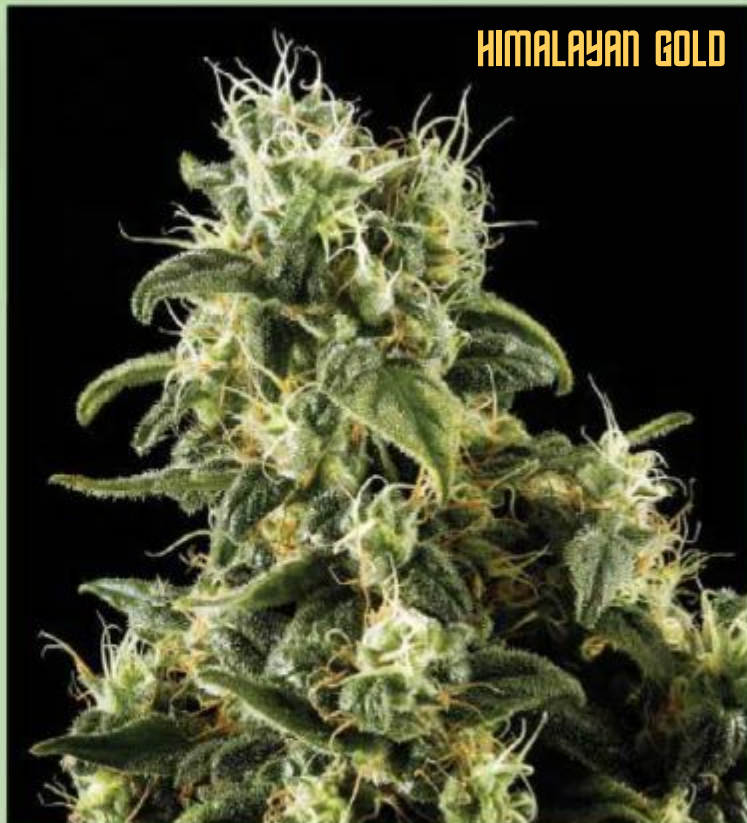
CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$465** (\$427, \$449)

CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$262** (\$279, \$275)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$88** (\$100, \$91)

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
ALABAMA	Albertville	Mexican Schwag	\$85
	Guntersville	Mids	\$150
ARKANSAS	Little Rock	Lavender Snowcap	\$525 \$475
CALIFORNIA	San Diego	Afghani Trainwreck	\$480
	Santa Cruz	M10	\$240
		Sour Diesel x Trainwreck	\$300
FLORIDA	New Smyrna Beach	Triangle Kush	\$450
	Port St. Lucie	Juicy Fruit	\$375
		Banana Kush	\$400
GEORGIA	Atlanta	Granddaddy Purps	\$500
	Carrollton	Diesel	\$550
	Valdosta	Purple Kush	\$600
ILLINOIS	Edgewood	Mids	\$175
INDIANA	Indianapolis	Chocolate Thai x NL	\$500
		White Widow	\$350
MARYLAND	Gaithersburg	Kali Mist	\$425
MASSACHUSETTS	Boston	NY Diesel	\$500
		Lemonade	\$450
MINNESOTA	Minneapolis	Sour Diesel	\$420
	North Branch	Mids	\$125
MISSOURI	St. Louis	White Widow	\$400
		Juicy Fruit	\$350
		Sour Diesel	\$400
NEVADA	Las Vegas	Granddaddy Juicy Fruit	\$480
NEW YORK	Buffalo	Mids	\$100
	Long Island	OG Kush	\$700
	New York	Sour Diesel	\$480
NORTH CAROLINA	Raleigh	Popcorn	\$400
		Purps	\$560
		Sadhu	\$480
OREGON	Grants Pass	Blueberry Kush	\$350
	Portland	Granddaddy Purps	\$320
PENNSYLVANIA	Feasterville	Jack Herer	\$450
	Pittsburgh	Purple Haze	\$480
		Blueberry	\$480
RHODE ISLAND	Providence	Stoned Rhino	\$350
SOUTH CAROLINA	Charleston	NY Diesel	\$475
TEXAS	San Antonio	Crush	\$520
UTAH	Salt Lake City	Grape Ape Sugar Kush	\$300 \$300
WASHINGTON	Richland	Blue Moon	\$300
		Lavender	\$320
		AK-47	\$300
	Vancouver	Trinity	\$400
WISCONSIN	Rhineland	Beasters	\$300
		Schwag	\$40
INTERNATIONAL (prices in Canadian dollars, British pounds or euros)			
CANADA	Ottawa	Skunk	C\$160
ENGLAND	London	Kong	£150
SPAIN	Pamplona	Arjan's Haze #1	€168

HIMALAYAN GOLD



MARKET ANALYSIS

Once again, Kush took honors as the most submitted strain of the month. Purps and Diesel each had good showings but ultimately fell short of Kush's total submissions. The Kind Index rebounded nicely in December, jumping nearly \$40 from November and finishing well above its year-to-date average. The US Price Index also enjoyed a resurgence this month; however, it came in below its year-to-date average (as did the Mids and Schwag indices). The top five submitted strains (with average price) were Kush (\$442), Purps (\$463), Diesel (\$441), Juicy Fruit (\$402) and Blueberry (\$377).

HIGH TIMES wants to know what you're smoking. Submit your strain information (including location and price by the ounce) to thmq@hightimes.com.



Kong - £150

London, ENGLAND

"Wow, it's been a long time since we've had quality this good. Amazing smell and really complex flavour, with an awesome high that lasts for hours."

Kali Mist - \$425

Gaithersburg, MARYLAND

"These Kali Mist nuggets are awesome. Grown indoors under HPS, this is a true head-stash strain. Perfectly cured, they have an intense flavor and a powerful *sativa* high. This is as good as it gets here in Western Maryland."

Lemonade - \$450

Boston, MASSACHUSETTS

"One deep inhale and you can taste the sugary undertones. Best enjoyed in a small bowl or one-hitter to truly savor the lemony-citrus taste."

Stoned Rhino - \$350

Providence, RHODE ISLAND

"Primo weed: White Rhino crossed with a Sagarmatha breeding male courtesy of Celtic Stone. Crazy amounts of trichomes with a heady high. Grown organic and grown well!"

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S/S \$29.99
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This smokin skull is so soft you can't even feel it. And the green foil eyes really pop. 100% Fine Jersey cotton, combed for softness and comfort.



BUDDHA
AVAILABLE IN BLACK & GREY

\$29.99
M, L, XL, XXL

Buddha just chillin, smokin, holdin his leaf. Very soft print, you can't feel the buddha only the foil print on the logo. 100% Fine Jersey cotton, combed for softness & comfort.



SUN N' LEAF
AVAILABLE IN BLACK & GREY

S/S \$29.99 • GRAY L/S \$35.99
M, L, XL, XXL

This **BAD-ASS** shirt is a freehand sketch by one of Chicago's biggest, best & very anonymous, stoner artists! 100% Fine Jersey cotton, combed for softness & comfort.



DJ SKELETON ON HEMP
S, M, L, XL, XXL \$39.99

This shirt is so awesome, the background is done in foil so it changes color in the light. 55% Hemp / 45% certified organic cotton 7.1 oz jersey.

Modern, stylish fit. Low impact reactive dyes for brilliant colors. Garment wash and for broken-in softness and shrinkage control. Non-GMO enzyme wash for a smooth finish. Soft jersey taping from shoulder to shoulder to maintain shape through repeated washings. Durable double needle stitching.

Modern, stylish fit. Low impact reactive dyes for brilliant colors. Garment wash and for broken-in softness and shrinkage control. Non-GMO enzyme wash for a smooth finish. Soft jersey taping from shoulder to shoulder to maintain shape through repeated washings. Durable double needle stitching.



SKULL W/ TOP HAT
LEAF (LOGO IN GOLD FOIL)

M, L, XL, XXL - \$29.99
M, L, XL, XXL - \$29.99

The **Skull** with top hat is so smooth with his dice & a pot leaf in his hat. Just like all our shirts, you can't even feel that he's there. The **Leaf** shirt speaks for itself. Both are 100% Fine Jersey cotton, combed for softness & comfort.



EAGLE ON HEMP
S, M, L, XL, XXL \$39.99

How about this screaming eagle, the marijuana leaves really set it off. If you never had a hemp garment, this is the one to get. 55% Hemp / 45% certified organic cotton 7.1 oz jersey.

Modern, stylish fit. Low impact reactive dyes for brilliant colors. Non-GMO enzyme wash for a smooth finish with shrinkage control. Soft jersey taping from shoulder to shoulder to maintain shape through repeated washings. Durable double needle stitching.



DAGGER ROSE ON HEMP
S, M, L \$37.99

This one is a show stopper. The rose and skull eyes are done in foil, and as always the image and garment are crazy soft!

This sexy girls tank top is comfortable, casual and can go with anything! They are made from 55% hemp, 45% organic cotton jersey combining style with environmental awareness. They are sexy, soft, and resistant to ultraviolet light. And they tend to run a bit smaller than normal.

This sexy girls tank top is comfortable, casual and can go with anything! They are made from 55% hemp, 45% organic cotton jersey combining style with environmental awareness. They are sexy, soft, and resistant to ultraviolet light. And they tend to run a bit smaller than normal.



STONERBELL - WHITE OR PINK

S, M, L - \$29.99

You have to get this one, Stonerbelle is so cute with her ponytail, high heels and pot leaf. And she is so soft you can't even feel her. 100% Fine Jersey cotton, combed for softness and comfort.



HEART WITH WINGS ON HEMP
M, L \$37.99

WOW!!! This girls tank top is unbelievable, the heart and wings are super soft and you can't even feel the copper foil outline.

This sexy girls tank top is comfortable, casual and can go with anything! They are made from 55% hemp, 45% organic cotton jersey combining style with environmental awareness. They are sexy, soft, and resistant to ultraviolet light. They also tend to run just a bit smaller than normal.



KOI FISH
S, M, L \$29.99

This Koi fish is so kool with it's pot leaf tail and just like all our other shirts, the image is soft to the touch.

100% Fine Jersey cotton, combed for softness and comfort.

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GAMES



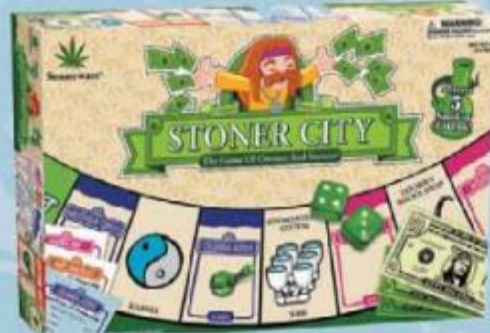
TWO OF A KIND CARD GAME (Above)
Match the buds in this game of memory. \$9.99



SUPER SKUNK PUZZLE (Above)
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PLAYING CARDS (Above)
The next time your buddies suggest a game of "loker poker," surprise them with this deck designed for stoners. Card designs feature intricate leaf patterns and unique suits—a great gift! \$6.99



STONER CITY™ (Above)
The game of growers and stoners who buy, sell, and trade while running a budding business. \$34.99



CHESS (Above)
Dude, whose move is it again? The game of kings and queens enters the stoned age. This unique set includes 32 pieces, full-color playing board and instructions. \$34.99



CHECKERS (Above)
Smoke your opponent in this classic game with a fun twist. \$16.99

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TO GET GREAT GEAR!

NUTTY NEW ORLEANS

Chewy ganja pralines seal lips with Southern sweetness.

My Gramps just died, and with his passing, family secrets unfurled. Gramps held to the old school Southern belief that unpleasant topics should be ignored. He never revealed that his grandfather was a Brooklyn-born Confederate Major and Wesleyan alumnus. I was stunned to learn that an educated New Yorker had fought for the South. When people speak of the Civil War pitting brother against brother, they mean that some men below the Mason Dixon line fought for the Union, for the cause of racial equality. So what the hell happened here?

It was a girl. *Of course it was a girl.*

This East Coast frat boy was banished to the banks of Bayou Sarah by his prominent abolitionist minister father in the 1840s, because his post-collegiate penchant for entertaining was excessive (I inherited that much). Once there, his soirees only became more lavish, and he fell in love with a society belle. He married her, grew a proper beard, became a prosperous, slave-owning planter, and then eventually fought to preserve a way of life that was better left behind, losing his arm to artillery fire in the "War of Northern Aggression," as my great grandma always called it.

Grandma never mentioned the Yankees in our closet. She'd just sip her sherry and spin ghostly yarns of Union brutality, of our family's lost sugarcane plantations, and General Sherman's fiery march to the sea. Grandma was a relic of another time, and I was afraid of her stories... afraid of the implications. Those plantations were places of injustice, pain and loss, places that are nothing but GPS coordinates now, the land itself being swallowed up by the seasons, floods and social progress.

Forget the past with ganja goodies.



Folks around there say a bearded, one-armed ghost still haunts the area, searching for a photograph. Perhaps he seeks the fading pictures of a gray-clad soldier and his wife — photos kept in the Victorian armoire where I used to hide on rainy days as a child, engulfed in the scent of gardenia and staidness. The armoire was part of a walnut bedroom set that was passed down as a wedding gift to my great grandparents. Where it came from and how it survived the War Between the States is a mystery to me, but my Gramps died in that bed 94 years after he was born in it. Someday it will be mine, and then it will be my grandchild's after me, symbolic of those inevitable things greater than ourselves — time, family, and change.

Mere wraiths of peculiar institutions and eras, these *mementos mori* remain... the photos, the bedroom set, the 160-year old recipe for chewy pecan pralines that rendered us mute every Christmas, to Grandma's relief. I can't ever reveal that recipe, not out of family loyalty, but because it'll rip the fillings right out of your teeth. After all, those that ignore history are doomed to repeat it. Time demands that some conventions be forsaken — like racial inequality, dark family secrets and my Grandma's sadistic holiday pralines.—Ashley Boudreaux

NOT MY GRANDMA'S PRALINES

1/2 oz mid-grade ganja,
trimmed and cleaned
1 stick salted butter
1-1/2 tablespoons of water

1 cup sugar
1 cup light brown sugar, packed
2 cups pecans
1/2 cup evaporated milk

In a double boiler, cook the ganja, butter and water on low for one hour. Strain the butter into a cast-iron pot. Add all the other ingredients and set on medium-low heat. Constantly stir with a long-handled wooden spoon (hot sugar is like napalm) until you reach the softball stage: That's 240°F on a candy thermometer. (Buy one. They're cheap.) At precisely 240°F, remove the pot from the heat. Keep stirring until the mixture starts to thicken. Spoon it quickly onto wax paper and let it harden. Store it individually wrapped in foil. Stones 14.

PS: Do not attempt to make larger batches; the consistency won't stay consistent.

Bon appétit, y'all.



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**The seed revolution has begun!
An historic day has arrived as
a new development in seed sales
is announced to the public.**

A GREEN HOUSE IN

After a teaser campaign appearing in all the cannabis magazines and on cannabis websites whetted everyone's appetite, it's time to reveal what it was all about.

The Green House Seed Company is introducing to the market a new, revolutionary technique that allows multiple strains to be sold in a single pack. Green House seeds are now produced in a new, color-coated version.

The color coating has been used in the last few years to improve the visibility of seeds in order to facilitate planting (especially in Third World countries), as well as to increase the germination ratio by adding hormones and root stimulators into the coating itself. Another advantage of the coating is the fact that root and plant diseases can now be prevented with the addition of anti-pathogens. Holland is the world leader in this sector, producing most of the equipment and additives used to color-coat seeds worldwide.

The new Green House Seed Company Research & Development Centre is equipped with special machinery to select, coat and color the seeds. The laboratory facilities have been built with many criteria in mind: to employ the latest in innovative equipment and cutting-edge techniques, and to allow strict quality control of the product.

The seeds are first coated with a secret mix developed by the Green House Seed Company during the course of years of research in cooperation with international laboratories. The coating contains root stimulators and anti-pathogens—ideal for helping the

seeds during the very first days and weeks of life.

After the coating comes the color: Seeds are painted using special non-toxic water-based colors made with organic components that are completely safe for the environment and its creatures. The freshly colored seeds are then dried in a special dryer and tested before packaging.

The seeds are checked for uniformity and germination before and after the color-coating process to ensure the highest standards, and to guarantee that our demanding customers will be delighted with our strains.

In addition to the traditional packs, there are now 22 new varieties of mixed-color packs available (10 with five seeds per pack, and 12 with 10 seeds per pack). The combinations range from different *indica/sativa* mixes to the greatly anticipated all-*sativa* and all-*indica* combinations. The colors are shiny, intense and very eye-catching, ranging from metallic yellow (AMS) to gold (Lemon Skunk), from metallic red (Big Bang) to purple (Hawaiian Snow), and from black (White Rhino) to white (White Widow).

So from this point on, growers will have the chance to buy three strains in a single pack, and they will never be in doubt about the identity of a seed.

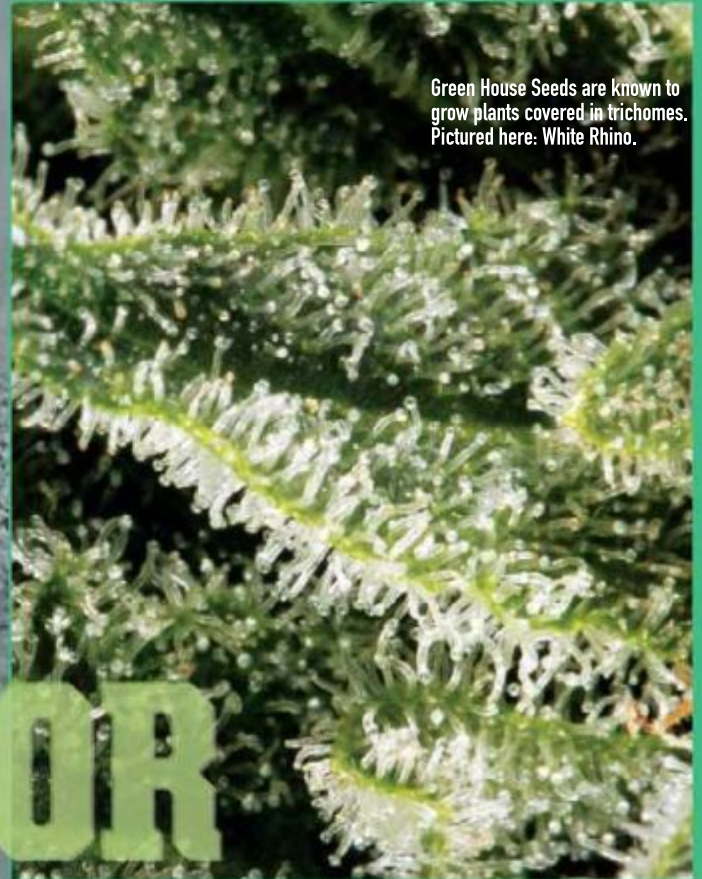
The revolution has begun, and it comes in every color of the rainbow. Enjoy this new era of convenience and choice, and give us your feedback at greenhouseseeds.nl.—**Arjan, Franco and the entire Green House Seed Company team**



The colored seed coating contains hormones and root stimulators for better germination.

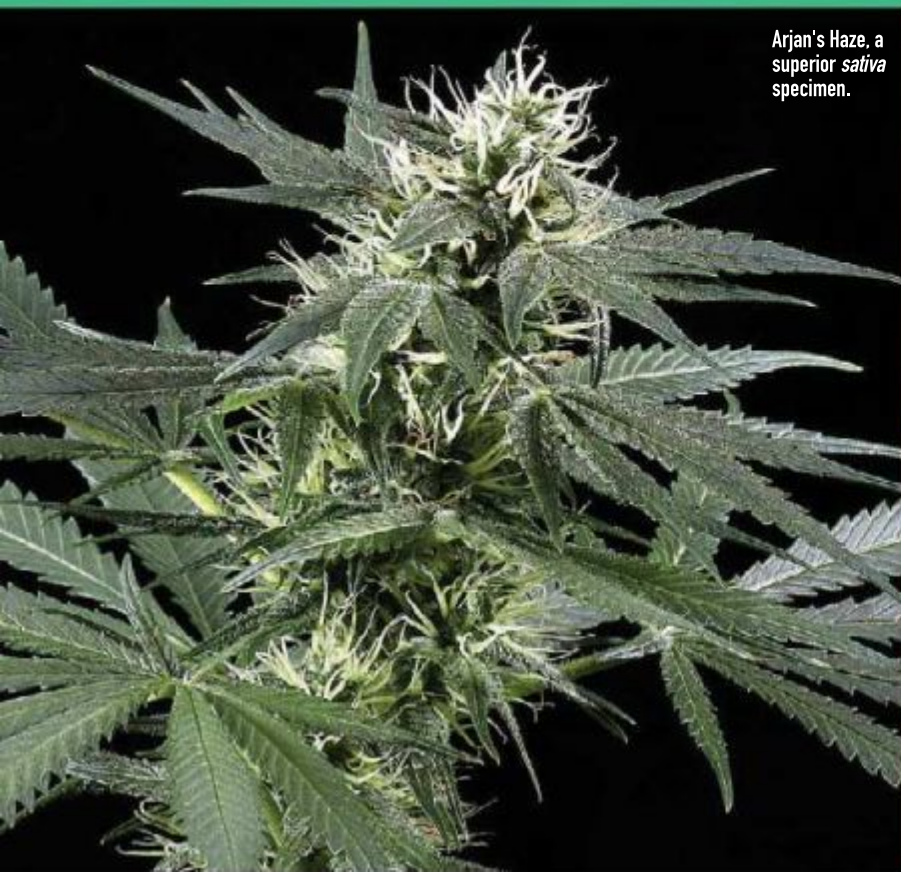


Healthy plants begin their life with a strong taproot.

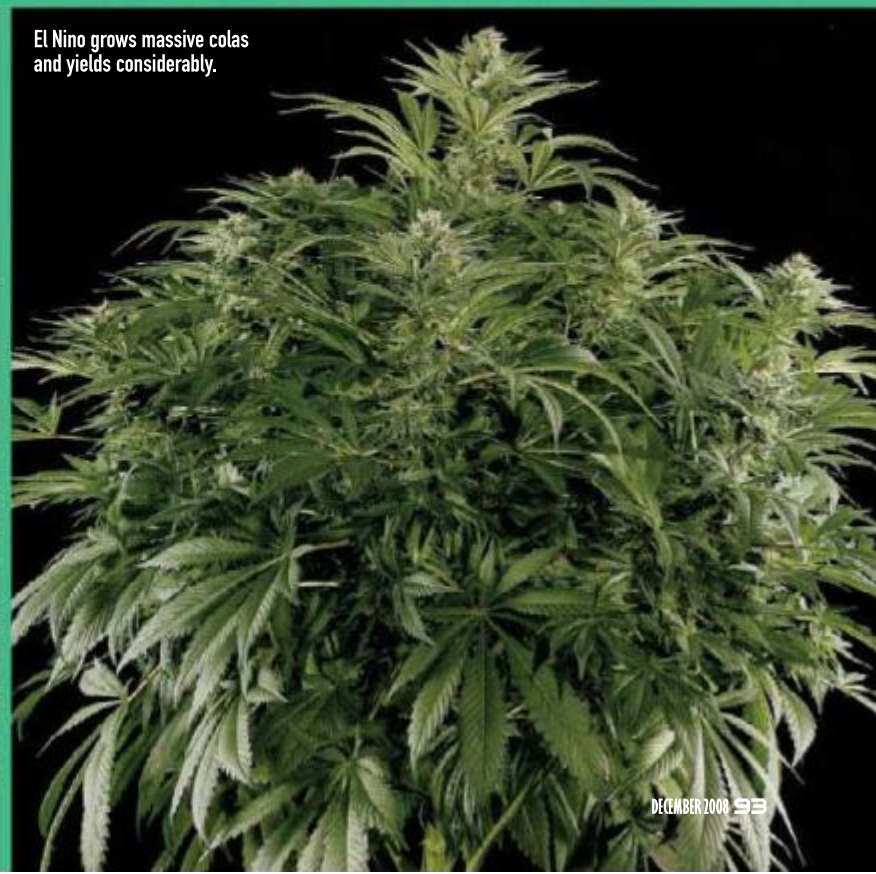


Green House Seeds are known to grow plants covered in trichomes. Pictured here: White Rhino.

EVERY COLOR



Arjan's Haze, a superior *sativa* specimen.



El Nino grows massive colas and yields considerably.

HIGH TIMES

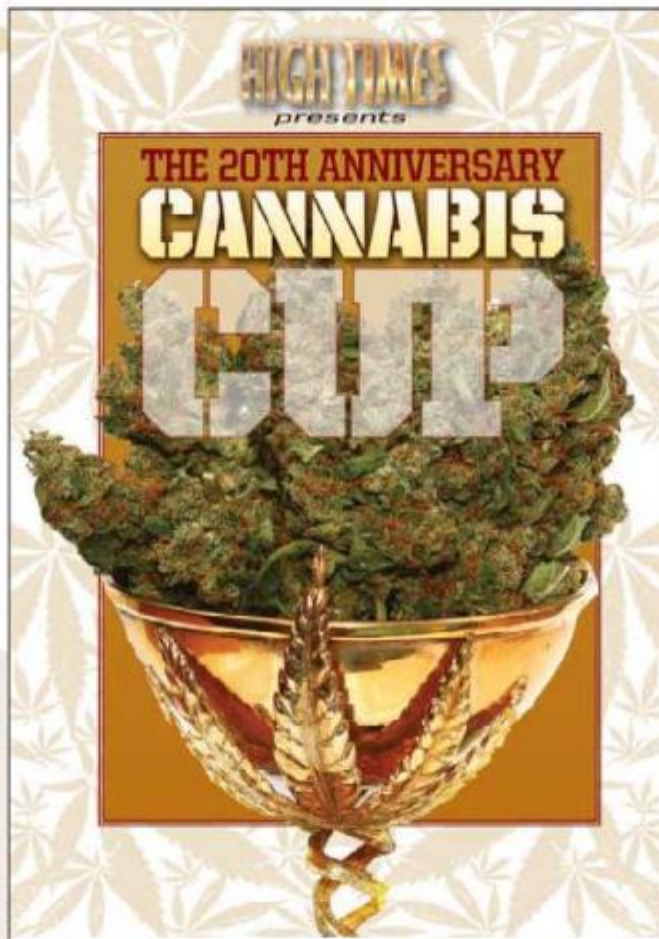
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Quality cannabis should never be consumed with butane and flint from lighters and sulfur from matches. The complex flavors become lost and those products are harmful to health and the environment. That's why we're so excited about **Bee Line**, a new organic product made from hemp and beeswax and hand wrapped around recycled paper. Simply light the string and it stays lit like a candle for fresh tasting hit after hit. The slow burn is perfect for keeping bowls well lit without the toxins and pollution of chemicals and you'll quickly come to enjoy the subtle hints of honey with your bubblehash. Bee Line stays lit and so do you.

Price: \$26.00 a box (21 packs measuring nine feet each)

Contact: *Bee Line Hawaii, 808-298-4785 beelinehawaii.com*



CRUZ CONTROL

Since 1973, skateboard company Santa Cruz has created iconic skate decks and gear for action sports enthusiasts. Their new line features some cool pot-infused clothing and we couldn't help but notice that they've filled in their famous logo with buds. We applaud the folks at Santa Cruz for acknowledging the obvious connection between cannabis and surf/skate/snow cultures and not buying into the fear instilled by drug warriors. These shirts reveal what we've always known; smoking pot and riding boards go hand in hand.

Price: \$19.95

Contact: *Santa Cruz Skateboards, 831-459-7800, scskate.com or santacruzskateboards.com*



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Price: varies

Contact: *Garden Ablaze, 831-600-8664, hydrogardenarmor.com*

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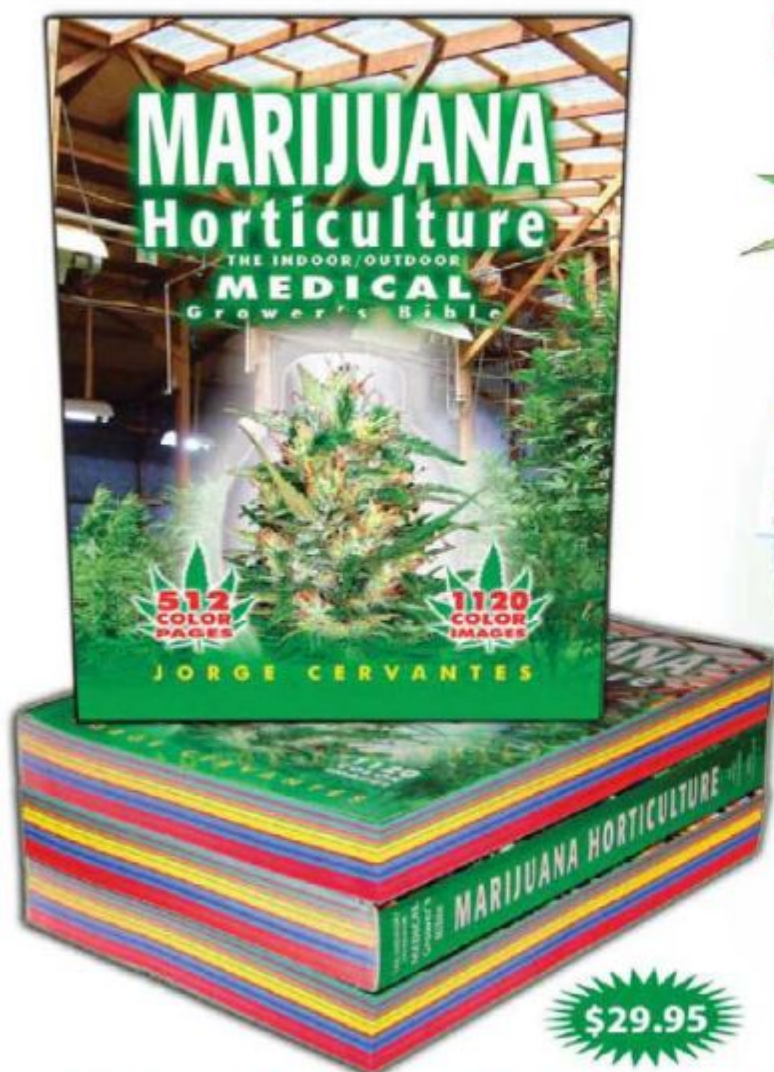
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MORE ON L.E.D.S

I read the chapter in *Marijuana Horticulture* on “Lights and Electricity,” and there’s no mention of LED grow lights. Do you have any experience with these devices? What are your thoughts?

D-Bo

Via Internet

Dear D-Bo,

Although I answered a similar question last month, LED (light-emitting diode) lamps are such a cool subject that they demand additional information and a more complete answer this month.

LEDs are the wave of the future: You can grow clones, seedlings, vegetative and flowering plants with them. Although the plants in the gardens I saw using LED lamps did not yield tight, compact, heavy-duty buds, they did produce a respectable yield. And for the amount of money spent per watt of useable light, LEDs are by far the most efficient lights I’ve seen. They use solid-state components to produce illumination rather than filaments, as you find in incandescent and tungsten halogen bulbs, or the gas that is used in high-intensity discharge (HID), fluorescent and compact fluorescent (CF) bulbs. LED lamps consume a fraction of the electricity of HID and fluorescent/CF lamps and generate very little heat. LED fixtures are rated for regular household current: 120 and 230 volts.

But all LEDs are not created equal. LED output continues to increase with improved materials and technology while still maintaining the efficiency and reliability associated with the solid-state components. Therefore, do not be

fooled by old LED lamps that are not as bright as newer models. Never purchase LED lamps with a rating lower than 1 (one) watt per bulb. Keep in mind that LED lamps are rated in milliwatts (mW) and consume much less electricity than fluorescent, CF and HID lamps to generate much more light. Currently, the most common LEDs used for plant growth consume 1 watt per bulb. Typically, clusters of 80 to 100 bulbs (consuming 80 to 100 watts, respectively) are placed in a single fixture. The color spectrum of each bulb is dictated by the semi-conducting material’s composition and condition. The spectrum can range from infrared to ultraviolet and many colors in between. This allows the new LED grow lamps to combine blue and red bulbs to form the exact spectrum necessary for cannabis growth.

Directional LEDs ensure that all of the light produced is pointed downward so that no illumination is lost on the sides. The LEDs from Philips Lumileds Lighting Co. produce 115 lumens per watt. The exact spectrum produced is so efficient for growing plants that previous rules about lumens-per-watt do not apply. For example, an 85- to 90-watt LED fixture with the proper spectrum will illuminate a 3-by-3-foot growroom. Also, LED fixtures have an 100% efficient life expectancy of 30,000 hours—about six years when operated 12 hours a day, and three years when operated 24 hours a day. Beyond 30,000 hours, the brilliance fades by approximately 30% during the following 20,000 hours.

Similar to the ballast found in more conventional lighting systems, the power supply

that drives LEDs precisely regulates the flow of electricity in milliwatts to the lamps. The solid-state, low-wattage device generates very little heat because the flow is not impeded, and several fixtures available today include a fan (or fans) to dissipate heat quickly and efficiently.

SOIL, WATER AND COCO

What nutrients do you use in 3-gallon indoor pots of soil? What schedule do you use indoors for the vegetative and flowering stages with soil? What do you think about coconut-fiber cubes in hydroponic systems?

Manny

Via Internet

Dear Manny,

There are many nutrients (fertilizers) that work well in soil. The main thing to remember is to start with good soil and good water. I prefer high-quality fertilizers that contain a complete array of nutrients. Brand names that I can recommend without hesitation are Canna, Genesis and General Hydroponics. There are quite a few more excellent high-quality fertilizers, but the ones above I can personally vouch for. The main thing to remember is to follow the manufacturer’s use and dosage instructions.

Check your water to ensure that it’s not full of excess dissolved salts. “Hard” water has a high concentration of calcium and magnesium. If your water has more than 150 milligrams of calcium per liter, you may want to run it through a reverse-osmosis (RO) filter to remove these excess salts. Concentrations of more than 50 ppm of sodium will also tie up

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nutrients, and total concentrations of more than 300 ppm of dissolved solids (i.e., salts) will greatly alter your fertilizer's effectiveness. Therefore, you should also use an RO filter to remove them.

I like to buy high-quality premixed soil that drains well. Most of these soils have at least 10% perlite added to facilitate drainage. Look for soil with a stable pH of around 6 to 6.5. Don't use soil that is too acidic or that contains too much clay or bark. Ask the folks at your local nursery for recommendations. Actually, one of my favorite mixes to use isn't soil, but a soilless mix such as Pro-Mix. This stuff is great! It's enriched with *Bacillus subtilis* MBI 600, a bio-fungicide in the Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) family that prevents root diseases. The mix consists of about 75% Canadian sphagnum peat moss and both dolomite and calcitic limestone to keep pH stable, plus micronutrients, perlite, vermiculite and a wetting agent. I like it because it's easy to handle and grow in.

Coco peat is great stuff, too— just make sure to purchase a high-quality brand such as Canna. Other brands may not have all the salts washed out or could contain many impurities. Check out their website, canna.com, for more information about coco peat.

MARY JANE ON MYSPACE

I'm 19 years old and live in New Jersey. I am majoring in botany at college. I love cannabis—not just smoking and growing and cooking with it, but also studying its effects as a medicine. I love everything about this intriguing plant. I hope one day to legally grow it and to follow my dreams of marijuana activism, and I owe it all to you, man. I've read your books on growing and seen your videos. My friends and I have started a MySpace page dedicated to marijuana and the anti-prohibition movement and the hippie culture of the '60s and '70s. I'd love it if you could stop in sometime and check it out: myspace.com/themovement00.

BgNick (onelove)
Via Internet

Dear BgNick,

I just did! You have a good-looking site. Also, I'm pleased to report that I have seen many other sites dedicated to marijuana out there. I urge all HIGH TIMES readers to check out the social-networking opportunities available on MySpace, Facebook, etc., to make more marijuana friends!

THE PLANT!

I'm in Arizona and have started growing with your books as my guides. I've been somewhat successful so far, even though it's illegal here. I am 20 right now, and the law is a bit harsh on adults. I was wondering how to get into seed companies and dispensaries in any country as a grower. Do I need to go to school for botany, or is there a marijuana college? This may sound stupid to some, but I have fallen completely in love with the plant and can see myself doing this forever. Thank you for your time and any information you may have to share.

Pedro Cruz
Via Internet

Dear Pedro,

The cannabis-growing industry is not regulated and is for the most part illegal. That means you don't need a special degree to enter this industry; however, the more you know about botany, horticulture and science in general, the better equipped you'll be. As far as getting into this industry, move to California or another medical-marijuana state and start growing or working for a medical dispensary. You can also consider moving to Canada or Europe, but you will face tough immigration standards if you're an American citizen. That's a big problem these days: America has started so many wars that its citizens now face far tougher immigration policies.

Good on you to be fascinated with cannabis. Don't feel stupid; you're one of many—myself included—that have become interested in the plant and the best ways to grow it. In fact, there is even a grow shop in Barcelona, Spain, that is called simply "The Plant."

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GROWING A SINGLE

What if I wanted to grow one plant just as a project, just to experiment and get a personal crop every time it buds? What would you recommend as a short, relatively potent and fast-growing plant?

Devin
Via Internet

Dear Devin,

The most popular auto-flowering plant that I know is Lowrider, which flowers regardless of the hours of light it receives in about 70 days from seed. But the high is not exceptional, and the yield is low—an ounce or less per plant. You can also buy “feminized” seeds. These plants take longer to flower—about 120 days—but they’re guaranteed to be female. Most feminized seeds will produce from 1 to 6 ounces per plant, depending on the strain and your expertise as a grower. One of my favorites is Jorge’s Diamonds #1, available from Dutch Passion. Unfortunately, it is not available in the USA, assuming that is where you live.

You can grow auto-flowering Lowrider or any strain of feminized seed either indoors or outdoors. My advice is to buy only high-quality feminized seed. Also, remember to harvest plants grown from feminized seed when they’re at peak ripeness. If they’re allowed to go too long, most strains of feminized seed have intersex (hermaphrodite) tendencies that will definitely start to show. On the other hand, only a few male flowers will sprout, so it’s not that big a problem.

A FEW SEEDS

I’m a cancer patient, and I’m growing four plants using a CF-lamp setup. My plants are about a week from harvest; they’re clones from a friend’s “mother” plant. This morning I found a lower branch that doesn’t get that much light, and there was a seed in each of the little buds! I check them several times every day, and the seeds weren’t visible earlier. What did I do wrong, and should I harvest early now that this has happened?

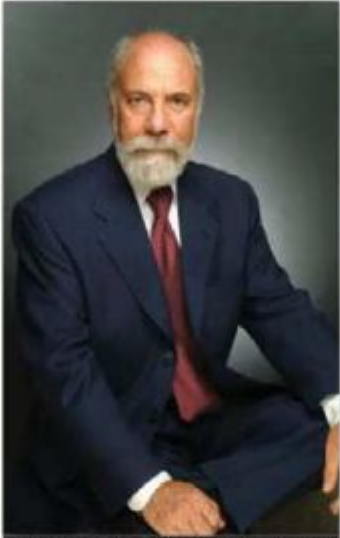
Worried First-Timer
Via Internet

Dear Worried,

My best wishes to you dealing with your cancer. I sincerely hope it’s in remission and that you’ll be rid of it and live a long life.

CF lamps come in many sizes. If you’re using enough watts (65 to 125 per plant), they will grow respectable buds. Lower branches get very little light under CFLs, especially if the foliage above them is dense and the plants are tall. The presence of seeds has nothing to do with the fact that your plants were grown under CFLs and some branches received little light. My guess is that the clones have developed intersex (hermaphrodite) buds that include a few male flowers on predominantly female plants. These male buds will shed pollen, and the lower female flowers were fertilized because the pollen fell down and landed on them. You should be on the lookout for any male flowers and remove any of them; definitely look for more seeds and remove them, too. Since you’ve found just a few of them, they’re nothing to worry about very seriously. Therefore, do not harvest until the female buds are ready, even if you find a few more seeds. The unfertilized female buds will develop to full potency.

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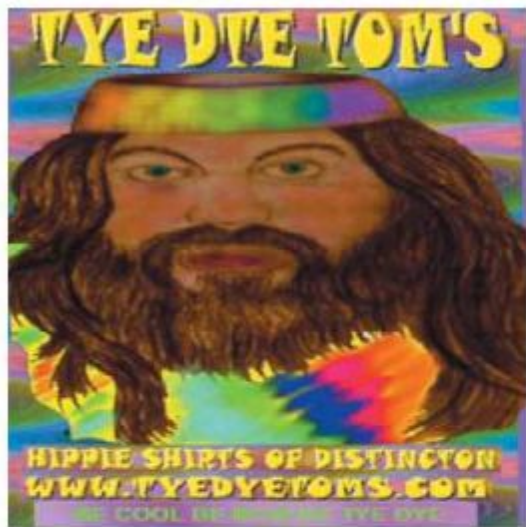
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JORGE'S RX

CUT-RATE SEEDS

I want your opinion. I'm a 58-year-old medical-marijuana user. I was using medpot before it was legal. I purchased some Blue Cheese beans and thought it was the best I've ever smoked here in Florida—much better than Colombian Gold! The beans weren't the most expensive around; in fact, they're now half the price I paid for them. My question is: Which do you think is the best, longest-lasting and most fun strain all around? Some of the beans I've seen on the Net sell for anywhere from \$25 to \$200, so in your opinion, which strain do you think is best?

*Ric Yankee
Via Internet*

Dear Ric,
That's a tough question, and the answer will be quite subjective since there are so many different strains and tastes out there, Blue Cheese being just one of many. When the infamous website Overgrow.com was shut down by Canadian authorities, its "StrainGuide" listed more than 1,000 different strains or varieties of cannabis.

One of the uncertainties about the marijuana-seed business is that anybody who has seeds can sell them as whatever strain they want. Also, many seeds look the same—sure, there are big ones, little ones, dark ones, mottled ones, etc., but when you're buying them sight unseen in an illicit marketplace, you can never be sure of what you're getting. In fact, there are very few quality seed companies that can guarantee their stock—and even the best of them have had serious problems.

Most often, cut-rate seeds are produced outdoors or in less-than-controlled conditions. I stay away from such seeds, since they're generally worth what you pay for them. At the same time, buying expensive seeds is no real guarantee either, since you can get mediocre seeds that are simply overpriced.

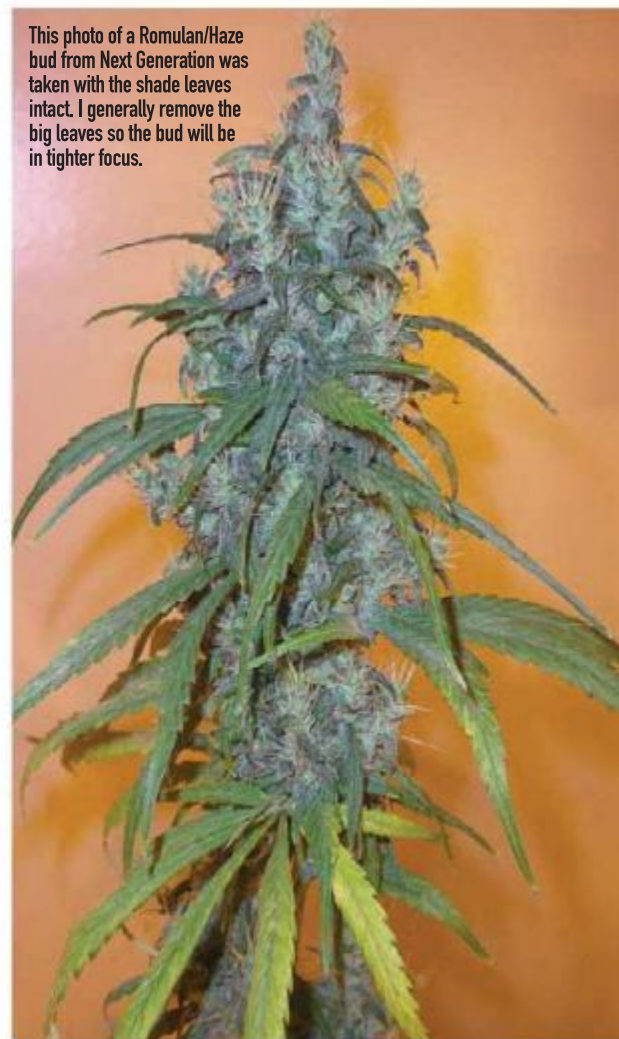
Keep in mind that producing seeds indoors in a controlled environment is a tedious and time-consuming process that requires the vigilant eye of a qualified professional. Clandestine seed-production rooms can be discovered by cops or robbers at any time and put out of commission. These rooms are also subject to pest and disease attacks: I know of more than one room that was devastated by infestation, and an entire seed collection that was destroyed in a fire.

With these caveats in mind, some of my favorite high-quality seed companies—ones that guarantee their product—include Dutch Passion, Magnus Genetics and Serious Seeds. For more information about good seeds and the reliability of various companies, check seed-bankupdate.com.

FAN LEAVES

I've noticed in many of the pics of indoor grows in HIGH TIMES that most of the fan leaves are removed. I thought this was forbidden: Isn't that what feeds them light?

*Captain Bob
Via Internet*



This photo of a Romulan/Haze bud from Next Generation was taken with the shade leaves intact. I generally remove the big leaves so the bud will be in tighter focus.

Dear Captain Bob,
You have a very good point! I'm sure you've seen many of the bud photos taken by myself and other HIGH TIMES photographers that show no fan leaves. But there's a simple explanation for this (of course, I can't speak for the others, but I can speak for myself): I inevitably remove the fan leaves just before taking photos of ripe buds. When the fan leaves are left on the buds, they end up out of focus and obscuring all that delicious resin. I use a 100mm macro lens on my Canon EOS5 to photograph the buds. As you may know, macro lenses allow for little depth of field (i.e., the depth of the portion of the image that appears in focus). This distance is about 0.5 of an inch. When large fan leaves are present, they don't fit within these parameters.

You're exactly right: The big fan leaves are part of the food system that makes plants grow. They are necessary right up until the end of growth, so you should never remove fan leaves unless more than half of the leaf has been damaged by disease or lack of water, fertilizer or light.

GRASSY-SMELLING BUDS

I just wanted to know if there's a nutrient out there to give plants so that their buds will be tight and compact? Also, what's the best way to harvest the buds, from cutting them up to drying and curing? All my previous weed has been tied together, hung up and left to dry in the dark, but it's always come out looking bad and smelling like grass.

*Gus
Via Internet*

Dear Gus,

Use a nutrient supplement during flowering, such as PK 13/14 from Canna (P = phosphorus and K = potassium), and add it per the instructions on the label. There are other similar products, but I know this one well and it works.

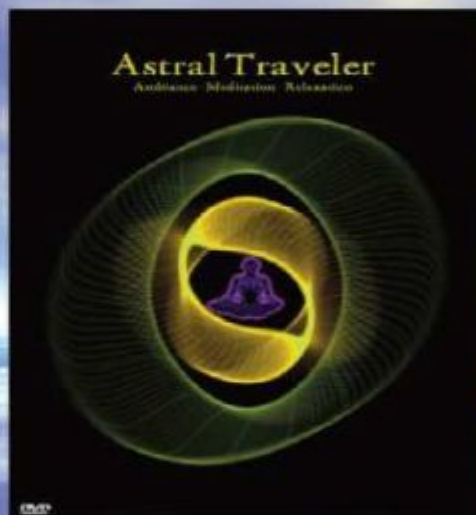
Your problem with harvesting is that you're tying the branches/buds together so that they don't dry evenly. Here's a thumbnail sketch on how to harvest, manicure and dry plants properly: Stop fertilizing seven to 10 days prior to harvest so the buds don't taste like fertilizer. (Many growers will give their plants 24 hours of total darkness before harvest; they say this increases resin content.) Remove large leaves a day or two before harvesting the plants. Also, withhold water so the plants are somewhat dry at harvest. Harvest in the morning, when THC content is at its peak. Harvest the entire plant one branch at a time by cutting near the base with pruners. Be careful not to jostle or mistreat branches. Manicure your plants upon harvest; the foliage is easiest to trim when it's green and supple. Buds also dry a little faster when there's less foliage. Use a pair of trimming scissors with small blades so that it's easy to reach between branches. Manicure your plants by cutting low-potency leaves at the point where they attach to the stem. Save the leaves—especially if covered with resin—for hash-making.

Dry the branches by hanging them from a line, and *do not let them touch*. This will avoid disease problems and make the drying consistent. As you've discovered, proper drying is very important: It converts THC from its crude, acidic, non-psychoactive form to its neutral, psychoactive form. The grassy-smelling buds that you harvested were not very potent for this reason. Drying also converts 75% or more of the freshly harvested plant into water vapor and other gases. If the buds are dried too quickly and unevenly, chlorophyll and other pigments, starch, and nitrates are all trapped within the plant tissue, making it burn unevenly and taste bad or "green." When plants are dried relatively slowly—over five to seven days or even longer—the moisture evaporates evenly into the air, yielding uniformly dry buds with minimal THC decomposition. That's why slowly dried buds taste sweet and smoke smooth: Taste and aroma improve when the pigments break down. The best air temperature for this process is between 65°F and 75°F (18°C to 24°C), and the humidity should be kept from 45% to 55%. *

Jorge Cervantes is the author of *Marijuana Horticulture: The Indoor/Outdoor Medical Grower's Bible* (January 2006), *Jorge Cervantes' Ultimate Grow DVD* (shot in BC) and *Jorge Cervantes' Ultimate Grow DVD II* (shot in Spain), *Indoor Marijuana Horticulture: The Indoor Bible*, *Marijuana Indoors: Five Easy Gardens*, *Marijuana Outdoors: Guerrilla Growing* and *Jorge's Rx*. He writes for 13 magazines in six languages. Jorge's books are published in Dutch, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish. Hit marijuana-growing.com for more information.

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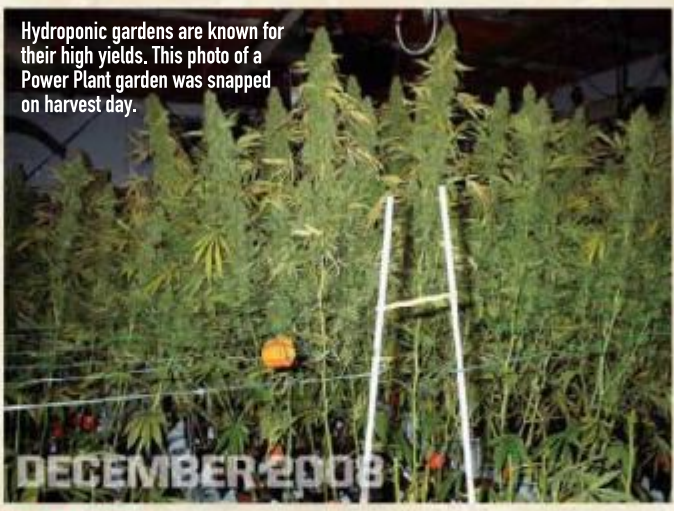
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GARDEN CALENDAR



Hydroponic gardens are known for their high yields. This photo of a Power Plant garden was snapped on harvest day.

OUTDOORS

Christmastime is here, and it's time to relax a little and enjoy the holiday season and all the accompanying cheer. Now is the time to pull out your special stash! Growers in the North can make plans for next year's crop, and most Southern growers will be harvesting their last tropical *sativas* this month (if they're not already out and drying).

Hit our site (hightimes.com) to see which strains took honors at the 21st Annual HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup. Use Google to look up the winning strains and get more insight on growing them in your climate. Remember to gather all the grow information you can before plunking down your payment—and make sure you're buying the actual winners and not some cheap imitation.

This month ushers in the shortest day of the year, December 22. Everywhere in the Northern Hemisphere, plants will receive exactly 12 hours of sunlight and 12 hours of darkness. But the sun is at such a low angle in the sky that light intensity is greatly diminished.

Growers in warm climates can continue to plant and grow all winter long, even though growth will be slow. Continue watering small plants, but make sure not to overwater. Outdoor plants can also be dug up and brought indoors or moved into a greenhouse to keep them warm and growing a little faster. You can supplement light when the sun goes down to give them 18 to 24 hours of light per day so they'll stay in vegetative growth. If plants are flowering now, the extra light will cause them to resume vegetative growth in six to eight weeks.

Give your plants just a little fertilizer now: Slow-growing plants are easy to overfertilize. Give

them just enough fertilizer to help them stay green and healthy. Don't forget to flush their containers monthly.

Trim off dead and dying leaves. Remove only leaves that are more than half-damaged. Carefully check plants for spider mites and other pests.

Germinate seeds indoors so that seedlings and vegetative plants will be ready to move outdoors to the greenhouse or guerrilla patch in a couple of months.

Mulch soil outdoors. It might sound crazy, but mulching soil between plantings will improve the structure and biology of the soil as well as help retain nutrients.

Take winter walks and drive around the countryside to scout out more outdoor plots. The bare trees in winter make searching for a new guerrilla patch much easier.

Inspect dried buds and look for signs of mold or excess moisture. Take a good whiff to make sure buds don't smell wet, which is one of the first signs of fungal attacks.

Start planning your spring crop now.

INDOORS

December is normally very cold in the Northern Hemisphere, especially at higher elevations. Cold outdoor air should be warmed before entering the growroom. Don't let cold air blow on your plants, as this will cause them to grow very slowly.

Diseases and pests will always take their best shot at moving into your growroom. Mature pests will start laying eggs and reproducing the day they sneak into the room. Control any problems immediately by spot-spraying or covering the entire crop.

Leach containers with a mild (5%)

nutrient solution. Flush containers with three times as much nutrient solution as the volume of growing medium. Leaching soil and soilless mixes will clean out the built-up salts that accumulate from fertilizers or impure water.

Do not overwater. Plants tend to use less water when the weather gets cold in winter; they'll often grow more slowly, too. Don't let your soil get or stay soggy. One of the signs of soggy soil is the presence of fungus gnats; you'll see these little members of the flea family springing around on the soil surface. Fungus gnats thrive in a wet environment. Check for them by carefully lifting the root-ball from the container and setting it on white plastic or paper. Damaged roots will be brown and slimy. Use VectoBack or Gnatrol to control fungus gnats.

Check pH and EC (ppm) of the nutrient solution regularly as weather conditions change outdoors. Use an aquarium pump to heat the nutrient solution if the temperature drops below 55°F (12.8°C). Top off reservoirs as needed.

Buds are more susceptible to botrytis (bud mold) now. Check buds on flowering plants carefully: Botrytis attacks buds from the inside out and can easily go undetected if you don't keep looking for it.

Stinky bud odors can waft outdoors and are very easy to distinguish in cold weather, especially since no other plants are actively growing or blooming. Take a walk around the building where your garden is growing and sniff around to make sure there are no unwanted telltale odors.

The roof above the growroom should look like all the other roofs in the neighborhood. If all of your neighbors' roofs have snow on them, yours should, too.

Indoor humidity often climbs when outdoor temperatures are low. The problem is most acute when the lights are out. Plot the humidity levels on a piece of graph paper one hour after the lights go out.

Take clones and plant seedlings for the next crop. Plant seedlings a month before you plan to move them into the room.

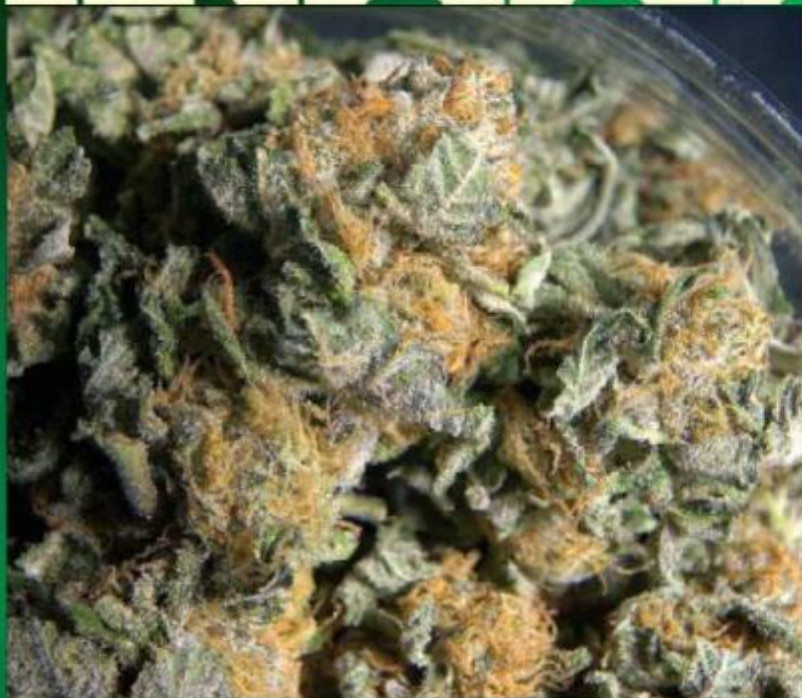
Keep room clean. Always clean your growroom completely after harvest. I like to clean it the same day so that I can move the next crop in and get growing. 🌿

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2009 ULTIMATE GROW CALENDAR



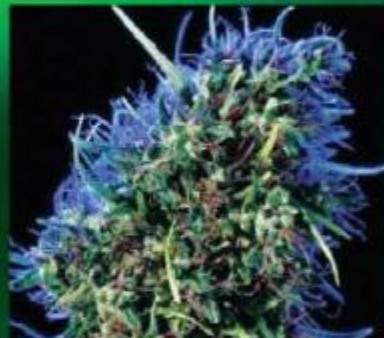
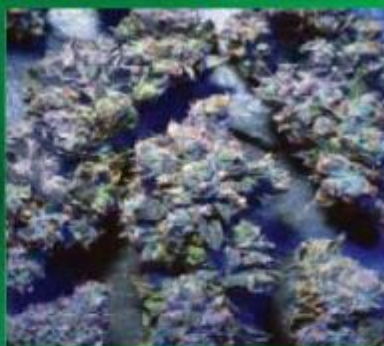
HIGH TIMES
OCTOBER 2009

INDOOR
Indoor growing is a controlled environment and is the most common method of cultivation. It allows you to control the environment and the amount of light, nutrients, and water your plants receive. This is the best way to ensure your plants are growing in the best possible conditions.

OUTDOOR
Outdoor growing is a more natural method of cultivation. It allows you to take advantage of the natural environment and the natural light and nutrients available. This is the best way to ensure your plants are growing in the most natural conditions.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	SEPTEMBER 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	INDOOR GROW TIP Stop fertilizing at least a week before harvest. Many growers stop fertilizing two or more weeks before harvest. Continue to fertilize with a super-bloom formula high in phosphorus and potassium and very low nitrogen if you plan to harvest next month.	INDOOR GROW TIP Ever wonder just how easy it might be to grow your own marijuana? Thinking of starting your own private garden this year? Worried that you might fall off schedule? This year HIGH TIMES is proud to offer the 2009 Ultimate Grow Calendar, featuring hot tips from the world's foremost cannabis cultivator, Jorge Cervantes. Packed with monthly summaries and daily grow tips, this calendar aims to keep you on track, whether you are growing indoors or outside. Covering everything from temperature control to nutrient programs and featuring simple but timely reminders to look ahead in the season, this year's Grow Calendar is the first of its kind and is sure to be a useful tool for any grow operation. So whether you're in it for head stash or big cash, you can't go wrong with Jorge as your guide to an Ultimate Grow in '09! \$13.99	1 2 3	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

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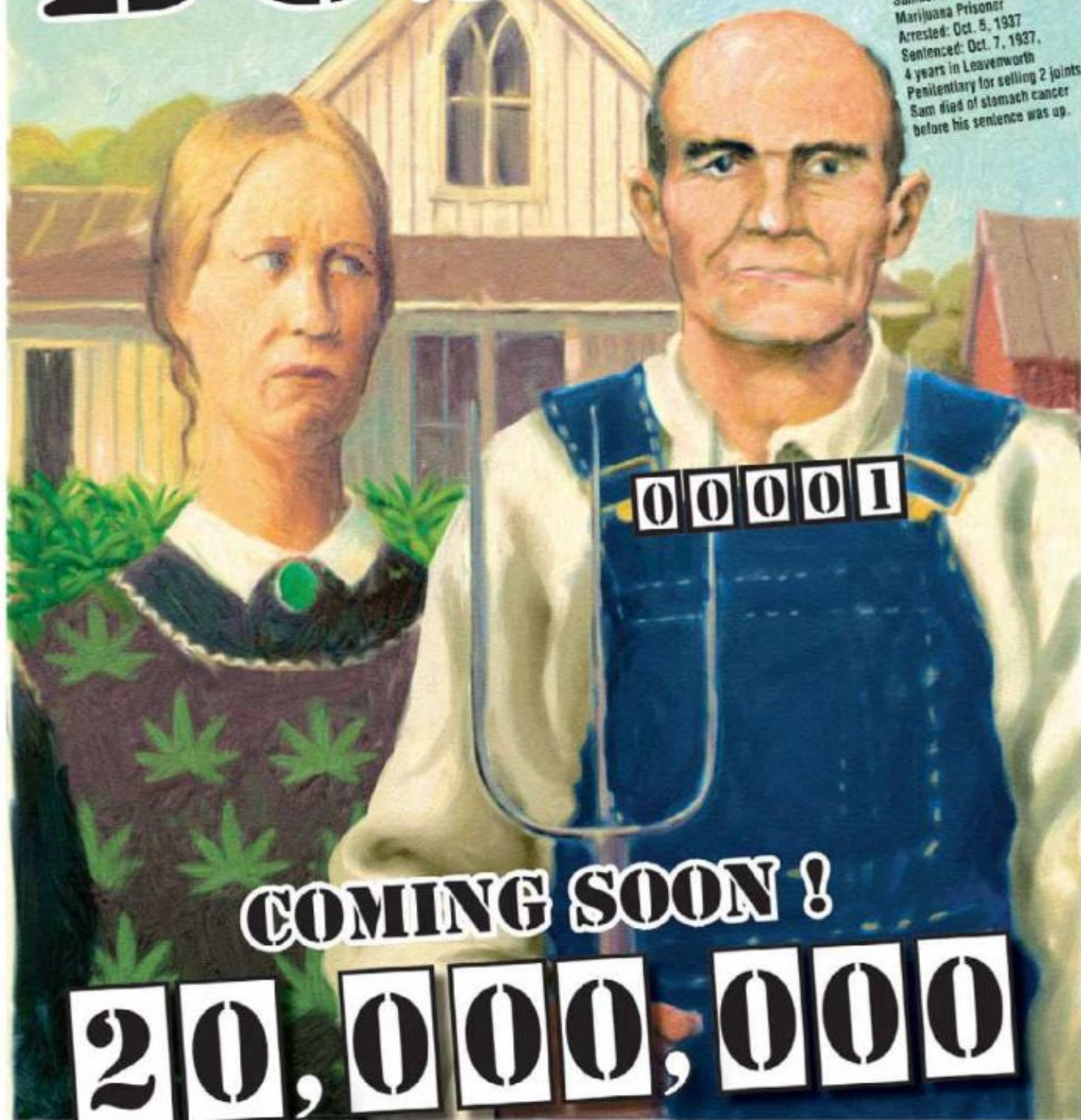
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NEXT MONTH IN HIGH TIMES



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GANJA FOR A GRAND!

Knockin' it down a notch so you can bring it up, we reveal some budget-savvy grow ops that will let you get started growing your own ganja at relatively no cost. Learn how to build a small growroom for only \$1,000. You'll save thousands more by never having to buy pot again! Just think: no more dealers, no more iffy weed—because you'll be growing your own favorite flavors! Cultivation Editor Nico Escondido teaches you how.

POT & POTENCY

For the past few months, the media has been running panic-inducing stories about the alleged increase in pot potency. Contributor Paul Armentano separates the truth from the propaganda for an incisive look at the meaning of high THC levels.

VAPORIZER PARADE

Many medical-marijuana users depend on vaporizers that heat rather than burn your buds, allowing the active compounds contained in the plant to boil off in a healthier vapor. As it happens, non-medical users dig vaporizers, too. We take a look at some of the top new models.

THE STONY AWARDS

Hollywood's highest awards show goes to Malibu as the Eighth Annual Stony Awards hands out bongs for the year's best marijuana-related films and videos. Will *Pineapple Express* make a clean sweep? And who will win the coveted Stoner of the Year award?

UNDER OUR SKIN

As tattooing seeps deeper into the skin of mainstream America, more and more people are pushing the limits when it comes to choosing an epidermal manifesto. So it stands to reason that pot tattoos are becoming increasingly popular. Whether you're the inker or the inked, pot tats are more than a statement—they're a commitment!

PLUS: An eye-popping pictorial featuring the "Nugz of '09"; and is Phish on the comeback trail?

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Patients info: (720) 890-4247
www.sensiblecolorado.org

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State Registration Program,
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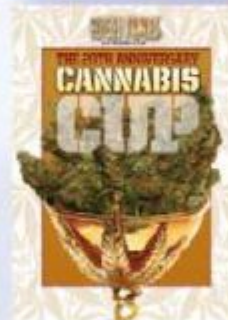
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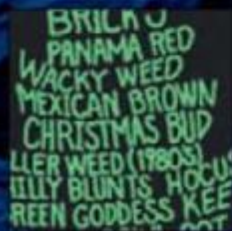
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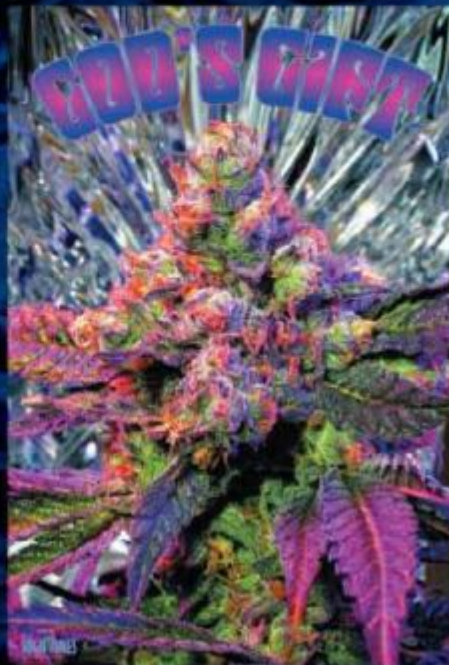
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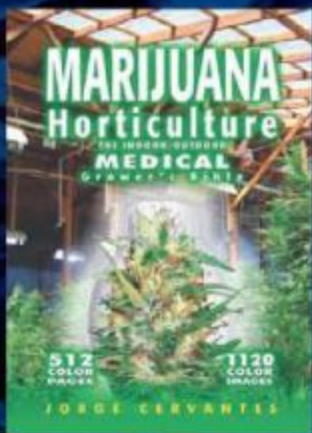


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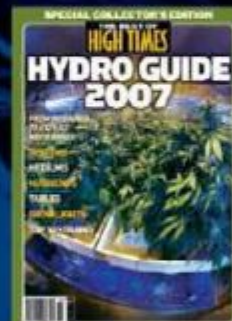
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WHEN PEOPLE TALK TO GOD IT'S CALLED 'PRAYING' WHEN GOD TALKS TO PEOPLE IT'S CALLED 'SCHIZO-PHRENIA'

29 JACK & J
WENT UP THE HILL TO SMOKE SOME MARIJUANA JACK GOT MIGHT UNZIPPED HIS FLY AND ASKED DO YOU 'JUANA?

28
 KILLING FOR PEACE
IS LIKE FUCKING FOR VIRGINITY

30
Life is a Shit Sandwich...
THE MORE BREAD YOU HAVE THE LESS SHIT YOU HAVE TO BAIT!

31
 "MAY 12-13: SOWED hemp at muddy hole by swamp. Aug 7: Began to separate the male from the female hemp - rather too late!"
DIARY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON, 1765

32
"WHEN YOU RETURN TO THIS MUNDANE SPHERE FROM YOUR VISIONARY WORLD, YOU WOULD SEEM TO LEAVE A NEAPOLITAN SPRING FOR A LAPLAND WINTER - TO QUIT PARADISE FOR EARTH - HEAVEN FOR HELL! TASTE THE HASHISH, GUEST OF MINE - TASTE THE HASHISH!"
- ALEXANDER DUMAS, 'THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO', 1844

33 HELP
SAVE TREES
EAT A BEAVER

34
"WE HAVE AN EXCLUSIVE EVENT IN THE OPIUM ROOM HOSTED BY SHANNON ELIZABETH AND SPONSORED BY US WEEKLY, LIGHT LIME, NITROGENA AND MANY MORE... THIS EVENT IS INVITATION ONLY."
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35
"EVEN IF ONE TAKES EVERY PREFER. MADNESS ALLEGATION OF THE PROHIBITIONISTS AT FACE VALUE, MARIJUANA PROHIBITION HAS DONE FAR MORE HARM TO FAR MORE PEOPLE THAN MARIJUANA EVER COULD."
- WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY, JR.

36
SPON
NEVER THINK IT'S AS FUNNY AS YOU DO...!!

37
"IF YOU 'JUANA GET TO HEAVEN YOU'VE GOTTA RAISE A LITTLE HELL!"

38 WHY
IS MARIJUANA AGAINST THE LAW? IT GROWS NATURALLY UPON OUR PLANET. DOESN'T THE IDEA OF MAKING NATURE AGAINST THE LAW SEEM TO YOU A BIT... UNNATURAL?
- Bill Hicks

39 OLD SOLDIERS
NEVER DIE...
(YOUNG ONES DO)

40
"MAY 12-13: SOWED hemp at muddy hole by swamp. Aug 7: Began to separate the male from the female hemp - rather too late!"
DIARY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON, 1765

1	2	3
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